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Page 15
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Wednesday February 28 1996

Table with exchange rates for various countries including Abu Dhabi, Albania, Australia, etc.

The Guardian INTERNATIONAL

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NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR 48,487

The pilot who turned the tables on Little Havana

Faithful to Fidel

Guardian 2 with European weather

Parents

Children lost to cults

G2 pages 4/5

Society

A terrible kind of beauty in this not-so-pleasant land

G2 pages 10/11



Major moves to kickstart Irish talks

Michael White and David Sharrock

JOHN Major and John Bruton will meet in London today to launch their latest drive to revive the Northern Ireland peace process...

Poll highlights

- Despite the bonfire, 49% of Britons think the peace process is still continuing... They put 58% of the blame for the breakdown of the peace process on the IRA...

Public backs compromise

Martin Linton THE British government can rely on strong public support if it takes a more flexible approach to the IRA in the Irish peace talks...

ceasefire - would be demanded by a majority in Britain, Northern Ireland and the Irish Republic...

ceasefire - would be demanded by a majority in Britain, Northern Ireland and the Irish Republic, which were polled simultaneously over the weekend...

In an extraordinary running battle on the airwaves, John Major and his senior colleagues insisted that "there is no deal, not now, not yesterday, not tomorrow, not at all" with the Unionists...

ceasefire - Sinn Fein's de facto passport to the talks - will be difficult to secure. But John Hume, leader of the nationalist Social Democratic and Labour Party...

Each party's preferred formula increases its own chances of success, hence the tactical alliance between the SDLP and Democratic Unionist Party for a list system...

British government could not go, the Dublin government could not go, and we certainly wouldn't. Mr Trimble spent much of the day denying that any horse-trading between his party and the Government had taken place...

Dublin continued to insist that a specific date for such talks must form part of any Anglo-Irish communique. The Prime Minister's office confirmed that that was Mr Major's wish.



Sinn Fein's president, Gerry Adams, called for "clear, unambiguous public assurances" for a firm date "without any preconditions".

He remained courteous towards Mr Major even as he dismissed claims that his chief whip, Martin Smith, had offered to sustain the Government's fragile two-vote majority for its last 12 months in office in return for sympathetic treatment.

Blair to end union sponsorship

Patrick Wintour Chief Political Correspondent

ONE of the chief remaining historic links between the Labour Party and the unions is to be severed today when the party's national executive is expected to agree to end union sponsorship of MPs and parliamentary candidates.

Shadow cabinet's cash support

- Tony Blair: sponsored by Transport and General Workers Union; John Prescott: sponsored by RMT; Clare Short: Union pays £800 per year to constituency...

have risen, the relative value of union support has fallen. Under the current rules, first established in 1933 and last revised in 1979, unions cannot pay more than 80 per cent of the election expenses of an MP...



Pat Buchanan, the Republican front runner with Bob Dole for the latest US primary in Arizona, makes the most of a photo opportunity at the OK Corral in Tombstone yesterday.

Making a pig's ear out of a lost purse

Keith Harper Transport Editor

WHEN Morine Jeffers found her purse was missing on a train journey from London to Reading, she rang Paddington station and was relieved to hear it was waiting for her in lost property...

she was told, plus 10 per cent of the amount she had mislaid. "I was astonished," Ms Jeffers said last night. "This snatches of theft. Nothing justifies the unauthorised removal of money from a private and confidential personal belonging."



Morine Jeffers... shocked by Railtrack 'theft' of money

A Railtrack spokesman said last night it would apologise to Ms Jeffers because the wrong procedures were followed. The correct procedure would have been to take all the money, put it in the bank, and give her a cheque for the amount due to her after the deductions.

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G2

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Advertisement for Canon B&W Printer, featuring text like 'Free colour cartridge with a B&W Printer?' and 'Canon' logo.

MP fights Guardian 'insult'

Sarah Besley

A LABOUR MP told the High Court yesterday he was offended by a Parliamentary sketch in the Guardian in February last year which alleged he had foul-mouthed a broadcaster in Soho, instead of apologising, after accidentally bumping into him.

George Howarth, MP for Knowsley North and shadow home affairs minister, denies the incident ever took place. He claims the article, by Simon Hoggart, caused him grave embarrassment and greatly injured his reputation.

On the opening day of his libel action against Guardian Newspapers Ltd, it was claimed the article would lead readers to believe Mr Howarth was boorish, foul-mouthed and uncivilised and/or a drunkard and not an appropriate person to be a shadow minister.

The Guardian denies that the article could be so interpreted, but claims that even if the words do bear that meaning, they are true. Mr Howarth told the court he rarely went to Soho and had never met Fritz Spieg, the Merseyside broadcaster, musician and writer whom he is alleged to have knocked into. Mr Spieg wrote about his encounter with an unnamed Merseyside MP in the Liverpool Daily Post, and sent a copy to Mr Hoggart.

Writing about a Commons

debate on Sunday pub opening for which Mr Howarth was a Labour spokesman, Mr Hoggart used Mr Spieg's description of the incident, but named the MP.

Mr Howarth told the court: "I feel very offended... it never happened, and to make out that I'm the sort of person who goes wandering around the streets shouting abuse... it is out of character."

In justification, the Guardian cites other incidents. It claims the MP punched Mail on Sunday journalist Alan Cochrane on one occasion in a Commons bar. Mr Howarth said he had "had some words" with Mr Cochrane over an article about his sending his 11-year-old son to a school outside Knowsley borough.

But according to Mr Howarth, it was Mr Cochrane, "the worse for drink" who was the aggressor. "He came lunging at me shouting abusively," he told the court. He said he thought Mr Cochrane might strike him and put his hand up, "I think if he would have caught him," he said.

Mr Howarth admits writing to Guardian columnist Edward Pearce, objecting to comments about "winging Liverpoolians", but he denied tacking on a postscript telling Mr Pearce he could "fuck off". The MP told the court he was making a joke to lighten the tone. "I put it if you are not prepared to accept these arguments, you can asterisk, asterisk, asterisk off."

Counsel for the Guardian, Manuel Barca, reminded Mr Howarth that he had not taken offence over an earlier remark in a sketch by Mr Hoggart that he looked "like a serial axe murderer". Mr Howarth had written a wry letter that was printed in the Guardian, warning that "appearances are not always deceptive".

Parliamentary sketch was "something ephemeral and fleeting and not to be taken too seriously," suggested Mr Barca. But when it came to a damaging allegation about an incident that had not taken place, Mr Howarth felt, readers did not differentiate between a news story and a sketch. The case continues.



George Howarth, 'article caused embarrassment'

First night Exploration of the language of love

Michael Billington

All in the Timing Nottingham Playhouse

PUNT and Dennis, the TV comedy team, star in David Ives's All in the Timing Nottingham Playhouse, six very, language-obsessed plays, seen Off-Broadway in 1994, which frequently invoke the name of Woody Allen. The difference is that Ives, lacking Allen's Bersch-belt, stand-up experience, does not always go for the punch-line.

Inevitably some of Ives's half dozen are better than others. I warmed very much to Sure Thing which deals, in Ayckbournish fashion, with the different routes a café-conversation between a man and a woman can take: how his reaction to her reading Faulkner's The Sound and the Fury can propel them towards social disaster or to the altar. Ives's ingenuity also surfaces in The Universal Language, in which teacher and pupil fall in love through exploring an Esperanto-like language.

Ives's forte is clearly a deep romanticism that emerges through the potential minefield of language. But, when heterosexual union is not at stake, he sometimes flags an idea to death. In Words, Words, Words, he swiftly demolishes the proposition that three monkeys typing into infinity could produce Hamlet

and then has nowhere to go. Even a playlet about Trotsky's famous survival for 36 hours with a mountain climber's axe stuck in his head runs out of steam.

The one new piece in the collection, Degas - C'est Moi, confirms Ives is at his best when his cerebral and romantic instincts are battling it out. It is based on the Thurberish idea of an average New York guy imagining he is the great artist. Although finally disillusioned, he learns to accept the beauty of diurnal reality through observing his girl friend's fluency of movement. What might simply have been an intellectual conceit turns into something quite touching through Ives's access of feeling.

Although the plays cry out for an all-American cast in an intimate space, director Hugh Woodriddle does his best to cover up the culture-gap. Luckily, Steve Punt and Hugh Dennis rarely get the chance to work together. When they do the results are good, but the acting honours are taken by Debra Beaumont, especially as the earnest language student, and by Mabel Atken as a sharp-tongued café-customer and a waitress.

Ives palpably has a talent; but the real test will come when he translates his Woody Allen-type tension between head and heart to the demands of a full-length play.

Theatre, 62 pages 12-13

Lottery pressure prompts deregulation of £800 million bingo industry



A long way from Dartford... Sharon Stone and friends in Casino, the latest hit film with a gambling theme

Gambling controls to be swept away

Thirteen towns added to list of Casino sites as bookies are allowed to advertise

Dan Atkinson

SWEEPING reforms planned for Britain's gambling laws propose a fundamental shift away from social controls and towards gambling on demand. The £800 million bingo industry will be almost completely deregulated, bookies will be allowed to advertise in newspapers and jackpot machines may be able to pay out thousands of pounds.

Thirteen towns would be added to the current list of 53 areas in which casinos may be sited. They are Oxford, Slough, Peterborough, Swindon, Gloucester, Hastings, Ipswich, Croydon, Dartford, Redbridge, Folkestone, Morecambe and Weymouth.

The shake-up - announced by the Home Office yesterday - is already generating controversy. Junior minister Timothy Kirkhope said he would be looking at legalising side-betting on the National Lottery. But the heritage department, fearing the loss of "good cause" money to bookmakers, said this "is something... we are adamant we do not want to see".

Meanwhile, parts of the industry were suggesting the proposed relaxation did not go far enough. Alan Goodenough, chief executive of the Ritz casino owner, London Clubs, said yesterday's partial shift towards regulating gambling as a commercial rather than a social phenomenon may prove unstoppable.

Shares in the bingo giant Rank Organisation jumped on the news, as did those of Games, owner of the Coral bookmakers, Ladbroke and London Clubs. The proposals, published nearly a year later than planned, represent a response to pressures on the British gaming industry, notably the impact of the National Lottery and competition from overseas gaming centres.

Mr Kirkhope said the measures were "a balanced package of reform" designed to update rules dating from the late 1960s. In a reference to the concerns of that time, he pledged: "Regulation will be maintained to ensure the industry stays crime free".

These proposals will go out for consultation until May 31. The most radical measure is the effective severance of Britain's 970 bingo clubs from tough controls on the 119 casinos. The consultation paper described the game as a very

popular, low-risk form of gambling.

Under the plans, bingo sites will no longer have to form members-only clubs, and the 24-hour "cooling-off" period between joining and playing will be scrapped. Prizes will be able to play on impulse.

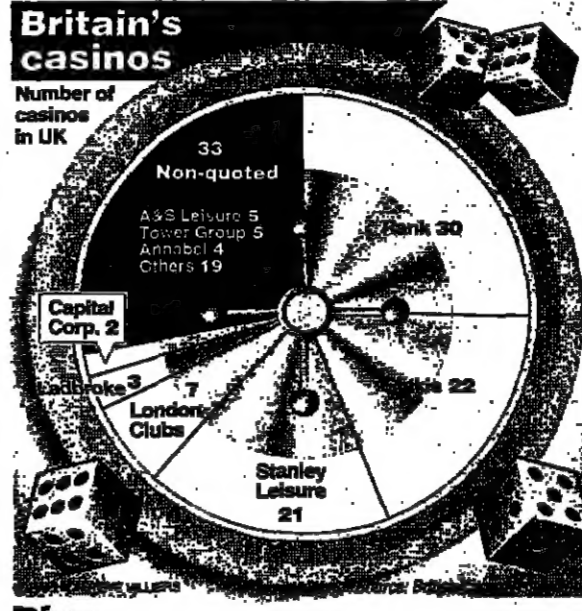
All advertising restrictions would go, as would licensing justices' powers to refuse bingo licences on the grounds of "insufficient demand". Limits on the extent to which operators can subsidise prizes would be scrapped, and the limit on national-game multiple bingo prizes.

For casinos, the package moves towards abolishing the members-only principle for "hard" gambling. The 48-hour "cooling-off" period is halved, and punters will be able to apply for membership by post, instead of in person.

The limit of six jackpot machines per club should be increased to 64, and the £250 jackpot prize limit either raised or abolished.

Licensing hours - currently limited to midnight - should be brought into line with those of nightclubs (2am, and 3am in central London), and limited advertising should be permitted in telephone directories and tourist guides.

Casinos and bingo clubs will be permitted to accept payment by debit but not credit cards.



Bingo Licensed bingo clubs, UK

Rank Organisation	Gate (owned by Base)
Carlton	24
Walker	22
Cascade	21
Portins	15

● London has just 14% of the country's casinos but accounts for 70% of all money gambled.
● Half a million people play bingo every day.
● More than £800m is bet on bingo a year.

Trafalgar faces billion-pound takeover by Norwegian shipyards conglomerate

Roger Cowe on a new business challenge

THE QE2 and other remnants of the Trafalgar House empire are in danger of slipping into the hands of a Norwegian conglomerate in a potential billion-pound takeover. Kvaerner, the Norwegian owner of shipyards, pulp and paper mills and oil interests, stressed yesterday that it would only go ahead with the agreement of Trafalgar's board. Two months ago the Norwegian com-



The QE2... reputation damaged by disastrous cruise

pany was given a bloody nose by shareholders of northern building company Amec, after only 10 per cent of them voted for a £360 million offer.

Trafalgar's directors will wait for a formal offer from Kvaerner, but their decision will be influenced by the interests of the Hong Kong-based Jardine empire. The Jardine subsidiary, HongKong Land, owns a quarter of Trafalgar's



The Ritz... once a prize asset but sold last year for £75m

Despite his pedigree, Sir Nigel failed to capitalise on the 1980s free-for-all which saw the likes of Lord Hanson rocket to the top of the industrial pile. In 1991 Trafalgar bought Davy Corporation, a high-quality construction company fallen on hard times. But one of Davy's worst contracts, to build a North Sea oil rig, landed Trafalgar with huge losses and led to final disinvestment with Sir Nigel

and his second in command, Sir Eric Parker. Trafalgar was forced to ask shareholders for more money in the first of four share issues. They also opened the door to HongKong Land, the Jardine subsidiary, which snapped up 15 per cent of the company in October 1992. Sir Nigel and Sir Eric soon gave way to Jardine appointees. Meanwhile, Cunard's reputation was

Big Pat KO'd at the OK Corral

Martha Walker

LIKE an elderly legend of the old West suddenly facing a machine gun, Pat Buchanan, the protectionist Republican candidate, stood helpless in Tombstone's OK Corral yesterday as the forces of global capitalism deployed against him.

As Mr Buchanan posed with a Colt 45 and a gunslinger's snarl at the scene of the most famous shoot-out of the Wild West, the chairman of Senator Robert Dole's presidential campaign announced that Germany's BMW company was bringing 2,000 new jobs, with a \$250 million (£165 million) expansion, to South Carolina. The state's primary on Saturday is the next on the campaign trail.

"Pat Buchanan wants to put a tariff wall around America that would keep these good jobs out," warned the current and past governors of the state, co-chairmen of the Dole campaign, as Mr Buchanan's photo-op suddenly took on the funeral trappings of Boot Hill.

Opinion polls had the primary too close to call as the south-west state of Arizona was held in suspense. A massive final television advertising blitz by the millionaire publisher Steve Forbes steam-rolled Mr Buchanan's far weaker television campaign.

Privately, Mr Buchanan's campaign staff fear that their expected small majority on polling day will be outweighed by the massive effort Mr Forbes put into getting absentee ballots in December and January, when he was riding high in the polls.

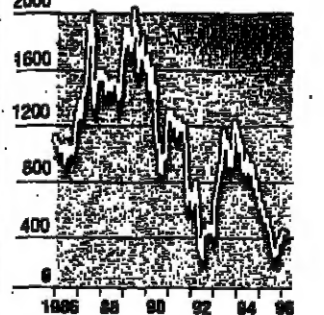
As the news of the BMW investment came in, Mr Buchanan snuffed a new conspiracy. He rallied against the European Union - "another arm of the New World Order" which, he said, was aimed at setting up a world government "to steal away the sovereignty of these United States. And I'm gonna take it back. Take it back, America."

The visit to the OK Corral had been a clever idea for a campaign gimmick. It is now a museum, where life-sized models of Wyatt Earp and his sheriff brother and the bandits they gunned down stand with revolvers drawn on the site of the gun battle on October 26, 1881.

One of the bandits was called Billy Clinton, and a little chalk transformed his name board to read "Billy Clinton", so Mr Buchanan could strike a glowing pose as promoter of a shoot-out in the November election.

But when Mr Buchanan then headed for the most famous of the Wild West burial grounds, on the small rise that overlooks the old mining town of Tombstone, he found it under new management. "Boot Hill Graveyard - and Jewish Memorial", said the sign, deterring his caravan from its planned stop.

Trafalgar House



hit by the disastrous 1994 Christmas cruise of the QE2, which resulted in millions of pounds of damages to customers who found refitting work still continuing while they were at sea. New chief executive Nigel Rich concentrated on shedding unwanted assets in an attempt to focus on international construction engineering which remains Trafalgar's most promising business.

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£1bn debt write-off for rail sale

Keith Harper and Alex Brummer

THE Government has agreed to write off £1 billion of Railtrack's notional £1.5 billion debt to make the company more attractive to potential investors and to prepare it for sale in May.

The deal has been confirmed in a letter from the Government to Bob Horton, Railtrack's chairman. It reveals that ministers have approved a debt reduction to £580 million, a deal which Mr Horton will regard as something of a victory.

The move was attacked by Labour's shadow transport secretary, Clare Short, as a "disgraceful and cynical move designed to keep the British public in the dark while the Government manipulates considerable public funds."

The £1.5 billion debt figure was arrived at by accountants preparing Railtrack for sale based on information gathered since it started operating in 1994.

The decision to write off the money is a serious climb-down after ministers, worried about being seen as too soft in previous privatisations, had held out for better terms.

As part of the deal, Mr Horton has had to agree to invest more than £500 million into the Thameslink 2000 project, joining services between north and south London. In a Commons announcement yesterday, the Transport Secretary, Sir George Young, said the project would quadruple existing services from six to 24 trains an hour in each direction.

Sir George said the Government would be expected to add about £100 million of the

£650 million cost. The centre-piece will be a new station at St Pancras adjoining the Channel Tunnel rail link terminal, the contract for which has been secured by a consortium including Richard Branson.

Mr Horton has been fighting an open battle with the Department of Transport to reduce Railtrack's debt. The £1 billion reduction will give Railtrack's balance sheet a more respectable look in the City and make its flotation go more smoothly, unless Labour comes out with a positive statement that a Labour government would re-nationalise Railtrack.

It also emerged yesterday that the Government has decided to sell the whole of Railtrack and not the 51 per cent which it is already committed. This would make it even more difficult for Labour to re-nationalise. Labour has been reluctant to reveal its plans for fear of being drawn into an argument about costs.

Sir George said that the Thameslink project would involve two new rail flyovers at New Cross and Brompton and rebuilding at existing stations.

It would also enhance links between Gatwick and Stansted airports, and create additional track and stations. Confirmation of Railtrack's involvement in the project, due to be ready in six years, came when Sir George indicated that it would carry out the "renewal" of infrastructure works including development at St Pancras station.

Ms Short welcomed the announcement but said it had been delayed by at least five years and would cost the taxpayer much more because of privatisation.

City Notebook, page 11



'In the summertime I couldn't sit in my back garden because of the smell. We got big black flies buzzing over the fence all the time'

Frank Bray on Flossie the pig



Flossie the Vietnamese pot-bellied pig at the centre of the dispute between Paul Telford, and Frank Bray, above left

MAIN PHOTOGRAPH: WILL WALKER

Pet pig causes stink between neighbours

Sally Weale

A LONG-RUNNING dispute between neighbours over Flossie, a 200lb Vietnamese pot-bellied pig, ended up in court yesterday after a couple claimed they had been driven out of their garden by the animal's stench.

Frank and Mary Bray had been looking forward to a quiet life when they moved into their semi-detached bungalow in Tynemouth, Tyne-side, more than seven years ago with their more conventional pet, a Labrador-collie called Jet.

But soon after Paul Telford, a 35-year-old company director, moved in next door he began to complain about Jet's barking, Newcastle upon Tyne county court was told.

Mr Telford tape-recorded the dog then blasted the sound through the walls to annoy his neighbours. "It would go on for about 20 to 25 minutes and it would reset itself and start again 10 minutes later," Mr Bray told the court. "Once it went from 8pm to 7pm then came on again at 8.15pm until 2am the next day."

There were also complaints that the computer

firm boss revved his cars' engines, slammed doors and tinkered with his jet ski at all hours of the day and night. The noise was so bad, the Brays claimed, that ornaments fell from their shelves and cracks appeared in the walls.

But the crunch came when Mr Telford purchased Flossie. She was kept in an outhouse at the rear of the bungalow, free to roam the back garden which was allowed to become overgrown.

The court heard that a pig like Flossie can produce between three and four kilos of slurry every day, but Mr

Telford had made no proper arrangements to deal with the problem. Excrement and urine were allowed to lie around the garden, producing not only an appalling smell, but attracting flies, mice and rats, which invaded the Brays' garden.

Traps set by Mr Bray, aged 61, caught up to three dozen rodents. "In the summertime I couldn't sit in my back garden because of the smell," Mr Bray told the court. "We got big black flies buzzing over the fence all the time."

For four years he and his wife have been trying to

sell up and move. Their once cherished bungalow is on the market for £269,950.

"Unfortunately, no one will buy it because of Mr Telford," Mr Bray said. "That's what the estate agents have told me. I had three different estate agents — and two of them have given up on it."

Mr Bray, a retired factory inspector with a history of heart problems, has had a heart attack since launching his legal case. He claimed Mr Telford was waging a vendetta against him and had caused 75 per cent of his health problems. Phillip Walling, acting

for Mr Telford, said a doctor's report from the Freeman Hospital, Newcastle, described Mr Bray as having "quite an obsessive personality".

Mr Bray denied the charge. "I like things to be more correct than the average person," he conceded. "I wouldn't say I am obsessive. It comes from the profession I follow, being an inspector in engineering. Everything has to be minutely correct."

The hearing, in which the Brays are seeking damages and an order to stop Mr Telford being a nuisance, continues today.

Aitken apology over arms firm

David Hencke, Westminster Correspondent

JONATHAN AITKEN, the former chief secretary to the Treasury, has apologised to Parliament for failing to register a £10,000 directorship with Astra Defence Systems Ltd, the company being investigated for sending arms to Iran via Singapore.

He is the first MP to apologise to Parliament since the appointment of Sir Gordon Downey, the Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards, as part of the Nolan Committee recommendations after the "cash for questions" scandals. He apologised directly to the Committee on Standards and Privileges.

The ruling by the commissioner is a fresh embarrassment for the Government, coming a day after it just survived a Commons vote over the Scott Report.

It is also unfortunate timing for Mr Aitken as he will next Wednesday be questioned by the Commons Trade and Industry Committee about his knowledge of the company's covert military exports to Iran while he was on the board from 1988 to 1990.

Sir Gordon has made his ruling following a complaint from Stephen Byers, Labour MP for Wallasey, that he should have declared his directorship when Astra changed its name from BMAFC (British Manufacture and Research Company). Sir Gordon, after checking at Companies House, discovered there were two companies, registered as BMAFC and Astra, during the period in question. He concluded after legal

advice that since at various times both companies used the name Astra, Mr Aitken broke the rules by failing to disclose the name of one which would have been used in business correspondence.

Mr Aitken drew a distinction between the two companies to minimise the number of board meetings he attended at BMAFC after the disclosures about the company's involvement in Project Lisi, a contract to supply naval guns to Singapore which ended up in Iran. He told the Times he had attended three BMAFC meetings, but had attended five, two under the name Astra.

Mr Aitken says he had no intention to minimise his involvement, saying he had been approached by journalists late one evening about his involvement with BMAFC. The Times asked only about his involvement with BMAFC so his secretary had provided them only with diary dates of BMAFC board meetings. He realised he should have included the Astra meetings after Mr Byers complained.

"At no time have I intentionally sought to draw a proper distinction between BMAFC and Astra Defence Systems, neither have I made attempts to hide my attendance at board meetings."

Mr Byers said yesterday: "Jonathan Aitken drew a clear distinction between the two companies — a distinction he failed to make in the register."

Politics, page 5; Letters, page 8; Richard Shepherd, page 9

Innocent Briton dies in Russian mafia shooting

James Meek in Moscow, Duncan Campbell, and Yevgenia Borisova in St Petersburg

A BRITISH lawyer was among three people killed when Kalashnikov automatic rifles from under the coats and sprayed bullets at a group of men, killing two and seriously injuring a third. They escaped, leaving their weapons at the scene — a trademark of Russian hitmen.

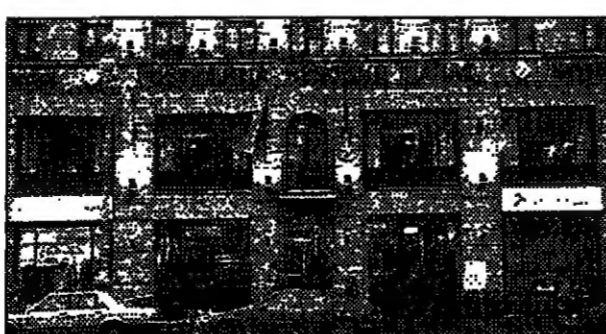
Yesterday there were still bullet-holes in the cafe's windows but increased security at the hotel. The killing of a foreigner in such circumstances is seen as highly damaging to the city's attempts to establish itself as a business and tourism centre.

Mr Hyden, a Russian speaker who was married, had not been staying at the hotel and appeared to have simply stopped for a coffee before returning to Moscow. He is understood to have moved to

Two men walked into the cafe with coats over their arms, produced Kalashnikov automatic rifles from under the coats and sprayed bullets at a group of men, killing two and seriously injuring a third. They escaped, leaving their weapons at the scene — a trademark of Russian hitmen.

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Murder scene... The city-centre Nevsky Palace Hotel

Russia in 1994 to work in business development. For the past fortnight he had been a consultant legal specialist working with the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development on a water project.

A hotel spokeswoman, Natalis Belik, said: "We were proud that we had the reputation of one of the safest places in the city and we paid a lot of attention to keeping this image and protecting our

guests. But we are dependent on the situation in the city itself."

The other two men killed are understood to have been bodyguards of the intended victim, who was seriously injured and is under police guard in hospital. Police sources named him as Victor Gavrilchenkov, a Russian businessman and a member of the Tambov criminal group, named after the city south-east of Moscow.

Philip Dacker, the managing partner of the Edinburgh law firm Dundas and Wilson, for whom Mr Hyden worked until 1994, said last night: "We are all desperately sad to learn of the untimely death of John Hyden. He played a key role in the work undertaken by us in St Petersburg during his time here."

Assassinations of businessmen and gangsters, often reportedly over minor debts and territorial squabbles, have become common in Russia in recent years, particularly in Moscow and St Petersburg.

Murders run at the rate of about three a day in St Petersburg. Police claim that they solve around 25 per cent of crimes involving foreigners.

Last year, a Briton was injured in a shooting incident in a popular restaurant on Novy Arbat, in the centre of Moscow. According to one version, the restaurant, walking through the restaurant after killing his victim in a back office, shouted at everyone to lie on the floor, but the British man did not understand Russian and was shot dead.

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Big Pat KO'd at the OK Corral

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Blair puts environment centre stage

Paul Brown
Environment Correspondent

TONY Blair promised yesterday to cut fuel bills and create 50,000 jobs through a scheme to improve energy efficiency, as one of his measures aimed at putting the environment at the centre of Labour's policy.

In his first speech on the environment since becoming party leader Mr Blair said Labour was planning a transport policy designed to encourage people to get out of their cars by offering attractive alternatives.

Among the proposals was a parliamentary environmental audit committee which would keep government policies constantly under review, and a commitment to cut carbon dioxide emissions by 20 per cent by 2010 — a far tougher target than the Government's pledge of stabilisation by the year 2000.

Mr Blair's speech delighted environmental groups. Charles Secrett, director of Friends of the Earth, said: "It is good to hear the Labour leader has understood that environmental protection, a healthy economy and social justice go hand in hand."

Mr Blair, speaking at the Royal Society in London last night, made a pitch for the Labour Party to be seen as the natural home of environmentalists. "The essence of the left of centre is that it believes the individual prospers best within a strong, cohesive society, and that such a society has to be built around a sense of mutual responsibility.

"Our relations are not simply market based. They require social principles to underpin them. This

is what the concept of stakeholding is all about — we have to balance the interests of all — not just the producer but the consumer, not just economic growth, but the environment... As everyone in society should have a stake in the economy, so we all have a stake in the health and integrity of the environment."

He chided the Government for failing to take action on global warming, saying that the ability to meet its current target was because of the switch from coal to gas and the serious recession. The energy efficiency scheme to help the old and vulnerable and combat global warming had been cut.

Labour would change that with 20 per cent carbon dioxide cuts by 2010. He promised a nationwide energy efficiency scheme for homes, a new transport strategy encouraging the use of swift and environmentally friendly forms of transport, and a partnership with industry and business to drive down their emissions.

Mr Blair said the party had to work constructively in Europe to ensure policies which did not destroy competitiveness.

He said environment versus jobs and environment versus competitiveness were outdated ideas. Most industrialised countries wasted energy and resources and produced far more pollution than was necessary for their level of economic activity.

Mr Blair said many good initiatives had been taken by local authorities to improve the environment. Labour would place a duty on them to promote the economic, social and environmental well being of their areas.

Leader comment, page 8



The late duke reviewing his private army, the Atholl Highlanders, on his estate in 1988. The militia was given semi-official status by Queen Victoria. PHOTOGRAPH: GLASGOW HERALD

South African inherits ancient Scots title

'Horrified' peers, family clash, land signed away. Eriend Clouston reports

AN ELDERLY South African land surveyor was last night digesting the news that he had inherited the 283-year-old dukedom of Atholl, complete with Europe's only private army and an apartment in a 13th century Highland castle.

The elevation of John Murray, aged 67, followed the death yesterday of his third cousin, George Ian Murray, the 10th duke, at the age of 64.

The news was received with dismay by Harold Brooks-Baker, publishing director of Burke's Peerage.

"This points up the weaknesses in the peerage system," he said. "It is a sad day for the other dukes I have talked to — they are horrified."

Scotland was more relaxed about the prospect of a commoner succeeding to the country's sixth most senior title. "These things happen all the time, there's nothing unusual about it," said the Lord Lyon King of Arms, Sir Malcolm James of Edinburg.

Mr Murray has not been greatly enriched by his good



Blair castle: previous tenants include Mary Queen of Scots. PHOTOGRAPH: MURDO MACLEOD

fortune. Two days ago it was revealed that the bachelor 10th duke, a former chairman of the Westminster Press group, had made over his ancestral home and virtually all of his 70,000 acres to a charitable trust "to preserve it for the people".

The revelation sparked speculation of a family falling-out, with Mr Murray depicted as the mercenary outsider punished for displaying

too commercial an attitude during an earlier inspection of the Murray's Perthshire seat. However, the estate's public relations team was stressing yesterday that relations between the two men had been good.

"There was no animosity," friction," a spokeswoman said. "The heir will be quite saddened to hear of the duke's death." Later she reported that Mr Murray, who has two

sons and a daughter, had sent his condolences.

The blood line that ties Blair Atholl to South Africa is so dilute as to be almost invisible. The 10th duke himself only succeeded to the title through convoluted family links with the third duke, who died in 1774. Inquiries have been hampered by the duke's reluctance to pass on information to genealogists.

"I assume it was because he

was so unprond of what was happening," said Mr Brooks-Baker. Nonetheless, a succession which dates back to a medieval Celtic earldom has always had a strong soap opera element. In 1746 the Jacobite Lord George Murray besieged his brother, the Hanoverian second duke, in Blair Castle — a family feud ended by the marriage of the respective son and daughter.

The 11th duke will inherit several thousand acres his predecessor had kept for his own use, as well as the family crest which features a savage in chains and the long-swording motto "Furth Forth and Fill the Fetters". If he wants, he can assume the colonelship of the Atholl Highlanders, the 110-strong domestic militia which parades irregularly for delighted tourists in Blair Atholl and Edinburgh.

The "soldiers", who have artillery and pipe band detachments, were given semi-official status by Queen Victoria during a Royal expedition to the area in 1845. Although they have never fired a shot in anger, they have an illustrious pedigree as descendants of the 77th Atholl Highlanders raised to fight in the American war of independence.

Recruiting is by the colonel's highly-prized invitation, with membership usually

confined to people who work and live in the vicinity of Blair castle. There is no pay, but the blue tunics, kilts and equipment are provided free.

Mr Murray is expected to spend at least part of every year in the ducal quarters of a building which is a familiar whitewashed landmark to travellers on the A9 linking Perth and Inverness. Previous tenants include Mary Queen of Scots and Prince Charles Edward Stuart, aka Bonnie Prince Charlie.

The old duke, a former president of the Scottish Landowners Federation, had a mixed reputation among environmentalists. His encouragement of native woodland was admired, but he was felt to have the wrong attitude to predator control and deer numbers. There were also occasional run-ins with hill-walkers, such as when he wanted to transfer a right of way from a mountain pass to a path beside the A9.

"He wasn't that bad an egg, just part of an old-fashioned tradition of running estates," said Dave Morris, Scottish officer of the Ramblers. "We look to the new duke to adopt policies which are less biased towards sporting objectives and more towards conservation claims and public access."

Obituary, page 10

15 charged with watching cockfight face fines and jail

FORTY police and RSPCA officers who raided a shed at a caravan site to stop a cockfight found four dead birds in bags. Thames magistrates were told yesterday.

The spectators fled, but police, backed up by a helicopter, arrested 15 of them. As well as the four dead birds, two badly injured cocks were found at the site in Belvedere, south-east London, on April 9 last year.

Officers in Operation Foghorn found a board stating the rules of the pit. It read: "As soon as birds are in the pit the fight is on... the bird that goes down two minutes three times is deemed to be loser. Once the birds are down in the pit, they must not be touched unless agreed by large parties. Any person who doesn't abide by these rules must state before pitting his bird. Belvedere Rules Apply."

The prosecution alleges

that John Lee, aged 48, organised the cockfight, outlawed 150 years ago, and that police found bundles of cash and notebooks on Malcolm Cooper, 51, who told them he believed the event was just an auction of game birds.

Police also found cockfighting equipment, including a set of scales and waxed twine for tying spurs on to the birds' heels.

Fifteen people are accused under the Protection of Animals Act 1911 of being present when animals were placed together for the purpose of fighting. Six face further charges, including involvement in organising cockfighting and causing unnecessary suffering. Fourteen deny all the charges, the 15th failed to appear in court. They face fines of up to £3,000 for attending a cockfight and £5,000 or six months' jail for cruelty.

The hearing continues today.

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YOUR HOME IS AT RISK IF YOU DO NOT KEEP UP REPAYMENTS ON A MORTGAGE OR OTHER LOAN SECURED ON IT.

Beer today and gone tomorrow may be epitaph for the widget

Christopher Elliott

THE widget, immortalised by comedian Jack Dee in television commercials, is being canned by Britain's largest independent brewer.

Charles Wells, which brews Bombardier, Eagle and Fargo ales, is dropping the plastic device that releases gas when a can is opened to give beer a "draught beer taste", following customers' complaints that it masks the taste of stronger ales.

The brewery plans to introduce a new "nitrogen flush" system.

But a spokesman for Guinness, which in 1989 was the first brewer to introduce the widget, following a \$5 million research programme, said the company stood by its "widget", insisting there had been no complaints.

Scottish Courage, which brews Britain's biggest selling widget beer in John Smiths, selling 25 million cans a year, also denies receiving any complaints from customers.

David Brindle, Social Services Correspondent

MINISTERS yesterday ordered a "significant" number of health authorities to reinstate services — earlier cut — for the elderly and long-term sick.

The move represents a tacit admission that the National Health Service has in parts of Britain lost sight of its commitment to offer care from the cradle to the grave.

At the same time, ministers are acknowledging that "some" health authorities have been trying to introduce formal policies which would deny care to patients properly entitled to it. In particular, authorities have been told they cannot impose unreasonable limits on care for the terminally ill.

"Very short time limits (for instance of the order of a couple of weeks) are not appropriate and any time limits should be applied flexibly in the light of individual circumstances," authorities have been told.

Local policies on eligibility for long-term care are due to

take effect on April 1, after controversy over a number of cases including that of a Leeds man denied further NHS care after suffering a stroke which left him unable to move, eat or talk.

The Department of Health has reviewed each authority's draft eligibility criteria and present provision for long-term care. The department's overall findings were set out yesterday in a circular to authorities, NHS trusts and social services directors.

According to the circular, "a significant number of health authorities are likely to need to make changes to the level and/or balance of their spending on continuing health care to address on-going gaps in services or to achieve a more appropriate balance of services".

The main areas identified are community health services and specialist support and rehabilitation. This implies that authorities will be told mainly not to re-open traditional geriatric care hospital beds, but to re-invest in other forms of care.

A Health Department spokesman confirmed there would be no extra funding for

the authorities concerned.

The department issued guidance on eligibility criteria last August. According to the circular, checks on local drafts have revealed "a number of points where eligibility criteria could be applied in a way which was not in line with the intention of the national guidance".

Criteria have to be sensitive to the complexity, or intensity, or unpredictability of a person's needs — and need not hinge on continuing medical care, as opposed to nursing.

The department's comments lend official endorsement to criticisms of many of the draft criteria. A survey last week by the Alzheimer's Disease Society found that limits of as little as three weeks' care for the terminally ill were common.

John Bowls, junior health minister responsible for long-term care policy, said: "Health authorities should be able to implement the basic parts of their guidance by April. More remains to be done."

Labour said the circular showed the Government's folly in refusing to set national criteria for care.

Juan Pablo Roque had flown into Havana first class — long before the incident that put US-Cuba relations back in the deep freeze of the Cold War. He had succeeded in duping one of America's most suspicious movements, burrowing his way into the heart of the other Cuba — the nation that lives in permanent exile

G2 cover story

سكاي نيوز

Meeting between old enemies raised alarm before Commons debate, and controversy over voting procedures

Murky trail from Ulster led PM to fall out with Trimble over crucial vote



David Trimble on Monday night after his party had voted against the Government

Patrick Wintour reports on how the UUP ended up voting against the Government



SDLP leader John Hume yesterday ... his meeting last Friday with Ian Paisley had alarmed the Official Unionists

THE trail that led John Major to fall out with his Ulster Unionist allies and yet win Monday night's vote on the Scott report is murky, byzantine and dripping with intrigue. The Ulster Unionists, the largest unionist party and Mr Major's oldest ally, first snatched a rat on Friday, when a rare meeting took place between two old enemies — John Hume, leader of the nationalist SDLP, and the Rev Ian Paisley, leader of the Democratic Unionist Party (DUP).

Mr Trimble despatched his deputy, John Taylor, to make further inquiries on Saturday as to whether the DUP and SDLP had cut a deal with the Northern Ireland Office over the voting system. By Sunday, the Ulster Unionists were openly suggesting for the first time that they might vote against the Government. Until then, it had been assumed they might abstain. The previous week Mr Trimble, a former law lecturer, had been suggesting that William Waldegrave probably designed to "get off", but he felt the Attorney General, Sir Nicholas Lyell, was clearly culpable.

Mr Trimble met Mr Major on the morning of the Commons debate. He was angry because he felt that the DUP and SDLP had cut a deal with the Northern Ireland Office over the voting system. He felt that the DUP and SDLP had cut a deal with the Northern Ireland Office over the voting system. He felt that the DUP and SDLP had cut a deal with the Northern Ireland Office over the voting system.

within 45 minutes of the vote that might have triggered the collapse of the Government. Mr Trimble claims they chatted inconclusively about the differing electoral systems. Mr Trimble and Mr Smyth left, and the Ulster Unionists quickly reconvened amongst themselves on the Commons benches that they would vote against the Government. At that point, Tory whips felt defeat was as likely as victory. Preparations were being laid for a confidence vote. Their chief hope lay in the unpredictable Rupert Allason, MP for Torbay. With less than 15 minutes to the vote, the public services minister, Roger Freeman, gave Mr Allason an undertaking — of limited value — that he would provide government time to debate further the use to which PII certificates should be put. Mr Allason, possibly in search of a get-out, grabbed it, voting with the Government.

Unlikely alliance seeks voting benefit

David Starrock Ireland Correspondent

ELECTIONS may be regarded by many as the purest expression of democracy, but in Northern Ireland they have often proved to be a source of more division. The latest wrangling proves the point, with each party adopting positions which they trust will leave them "on top" after an election. This is particularly true of the two Unionist parties, which have for years contested the right to speak on behalf of the majority Protestant community. Last Friday saw the highly unusual creation of an alliance between the nationalist John Hume's SDLP and the hardline unionist Ian Paisley's Democratic Unionists, against David Trimble's Ulster Unionist Party, Northern Ireland's largest party. Mr Trimble wants — but it appears, will not get — an election based upon the 18 Westminster constituencies using the single transferable vote system with five seats in each, leading to a 90-member time-limited assembly. The DUP wants a "list system" election, by proportional representation, to a body with specific roles. Northern Ireland would be treated as a single constituency, with voters choosing parties, although the DUP favours appending the names of politicians to party banners. The advantage of the UUP proposal is that legislation is already on the statute book so that an election could proceed without voting with the Government. The advantage of the DUP proposal is that fringe parties such as the small loyalist groups would stand a better chance of getting a representative elected. Neither the SDLP, Sinn Fein, nor the Dublin government want an election, but Mr Hume has signalled that nationalists could live with one, provided that it led swiftly and irrevocably into all-party negotiations. He has also suggested an all-Ireland referendum asking voters if they oppose violence if they want all-party talks. Mr Hume describes his election idea as an "index system" but really it does not differ from Mr Paisley's plan. The reason why these two men, diametrically opposed in their political objectives, can find common cause against Mr Trimble is that they both stand to gain. When Northern Ireland is treated as a single constituency, as in the elections to the European parliament, Mr Paisley always tops the poll and Mr Hume comes a close second, squeezing the Ulster Unionists into third place. This is because both men attract an enormous personal vote. At Westminster elections the DUP vote can dip as low as 13 per cent, rising to 18 per cent in district council elections, but soaring to 28 per cent at a European poll. By contrast the Ulster Unionists regularly attract more than 30 per cent at Westminster elections, and 28 per cent for district council elections, but only 21 per cent for Europe. Should John Major press ahead with the election plan, it is therefore likely that Mr Paisley would emerge as the strongest unionist voice.

Most Catholics in north reject united Ireland

Martin Linton

ONLY a minority of Northern Ireland Catholics support the goal of a united Ireland and most back some kind of continuing link with Britain, according to a joint Guardian-Irish Times poll. Given four possible futures for Northern Ireland — part of the UK, part of a united Ireland, linked to both, or an independent country — only 27 per cent chose a united Ireland. As many as 42 per cent wanted Northern Ireland to have a constitutional link with both Britain and Ireland and another 18 per cent wanted to remain part of the UK.

Kingdom. But perhaps the most astonishing response in the poll — conducted simultaneously in Britain, Northern Ireland and the Irish Republic — came when people were asked how much the border between Northern Ireland and the Republic mattered to them. The British tended to think that the border did not matter. The Northern Ireland Protestants felt very strongly that it did, though only a quarter thought it was worth fighting for. The Catholic community in Northern Ireland, however, in whose name the IRA waged war on Britain for 26 years, are mainly of the opinion that the border does not matter and is not worth arguing about.

today. It shows that the public is much less despondent about the future of the peace process than the politicians. Unlike the many politicians who declared the peace process dead after the IRA's London bomb, most people in Ireland think it is "stalled at present" and most Britons think it is "still continuing". If the process has broken down, respondents were asked how they would apportion blame between the IRA, the British and Irish governments, the Ulster Unionists and anyone else. The Irish and the Catholics in Northern Ireland tended to blame the British government, while the Northern Irish Protestants and the British tended to blame the IRA. But British voters still put a substantial 30 per cent share of the blame on the British government, 11 per cent on the Irish government and 8 per cent on the Ulster Unionists.

Who's for peace?

The view from Britain, Northern Ireland and the Republic

Table with multiple columns and rows showing survey results on IRA, border, and peace process. Includes sub-sections like 'How would you describe the future of the peace process in Northern Ireland...', 'Which of these possible solutions would you personally prefer for Northern Ireland?', and 'If the peace process has broken down, how would you apportion the blame between these organisations?'.

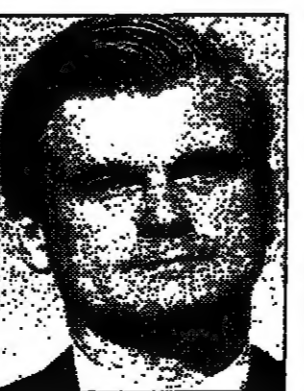
Freeman's remarks on floor of House on gagging orders which made Tory critic change mind 'only reflects existing state of law' • Information campaigners back MP's bill

Ministers deny concession to 'rebel'

Richard Norton-Taylor

THE Government yesterday denied it had made concessions to Rupert Allason, the Tory MP for Torbay, and spy writer whose last-minute change of mind during Monday night's debate on the Scott report gave it a dramatic single-vote victory. Mr Allason said he was persuaded to vote for the Government after concessions by Roger Freeman, the Civil Service minister, on the law covering public interest immunity — so-called gagging orders. Mr Freeman defended the use of PII certificates in the Matrix Churchill arms-to-Iraq case but said that in future "the presumption should be disclosure", rather than suppression of documents.

rule by the law lords in 1984, two years after the Matrix Churchill trial. In a case called Wiley, the law lords rejected the claim made by Sir Nicholas Lyell, the Attorney General, in the Matrix Churchill case that ministers had a duty to claim PII on a wide range of official documents regardless of their contents. They said that ministers in future should give priority to disclosure and look closely at the information contained in the documents. Mr Freeman said no more in the Commons than that the Government would look again at PII law to see whether it should be made more liberal, but he gave no specific commitment. Ian Lang, the President of the Board of Trade, said the Government would seek the views of MPs. A spokesman for Sir Nicholas said yesterday the Attorney General wanted to consult with lawyers and other interested parties. The Government has given no guarantee it will accept Sir Richard Scott's recommendation that PII claims should never again be used in a criminal trial in the blanket way they were in the Matrix Churchill case. Opposition MPs, meanwhile, seized on a passage in Mr Freeman's speech in the Commons on Monday night



Roger Freeman ... would look again at PII law



Rupert Allason ... switched vote after minister's words

which they said did not correspond with the findings of the Scott inquiry. He told MPs: "Non-lethal equipment did not include dual-use equipment if intelligence was available that there would be military end-use". The Scott report shows that ministers knew from intelligence reports that Matrix Churchill machine tools were being used by Iraq to make arms, but agreed to let them go, partly to maintain the flow of information to MI6 from Paul Henderson, the company's former managing director and chief defendant at the trial. The report says that William Waldegrave, then a Foreign Office minister, was warned in 1988 that Iraq intended to use Matrix Churchill machine tools for "armaments and munitions factories". Mr Waldegrave responded: "Screwdrivers are also required to make H bombs". Menzies Campbell, Liberal Democrat defence spokesman, said yesterday: "Once again, Government spokesmen either misrepresented or ignored a crucial finding of Sir Richard Scott". Michael Heseltine, the deputy prime minister, will be questioned about his evidence to the Scott inquiry today by the Commons public service committee.

Iraq machine tools warning in Matrix Churchill letter 'shows need to protect whistleblowers'

Richard Norton-Taylor

A CRUCIAL warning by a Matrix Churchill employee was using machine tools to make weapons was ignored for more than three years, highlighting the urgent need for a law to protect whistleblowers, supporters of the measure say today. The letter, from an unidentified employee at the Coventry-based firm, was sent to Lord Howe, the then foreign secretary, in January 1988. It said that the company was "working on a £20 million order for ... lathes to be used for munitions production in Iraq" and that "these machines are going to be used in machine shell cases". The Scott report said that the letter provided "independent, usable, information" to stop export licences and that it "should have been recognised as highly significant". It was sent by Lord Howe's advisers to the Ministry of Defence, the Department of Trade and Industry, and MI6, but was never shown to ministers. Officials wrongly assumed that the whistleblower had asked for the information to be kept confidential. If it had been heeded, "subsequent events would have taken a markedly different turn", says Public Concern at Work, a charity sponsoring the Public Interest Disclosure Bill to be debated in the Commons on Friday. Guy Dehn, the charity's director, said yesterday that civil servants would have acted on the warning if the whistleblower had been protected from reprisals by management. Under the bill, whistleblowers would also be protected if they publicised their concerns when employers ignored them. The letter, which finally emerged be-

fore the Matrix Churchill trial in 1992, was one of the key factors behind Michael Heseltine's reluctance to sign a Public Interest Immunity certificate, a so-called gagging order. Told about the letter by his officials, he noted that "it told me that everybody knew" the company's machine tools were being used by Iraq to make arms. The letter was one of many documents covered by ministers' PII certificates. Mr Heseltine, the then trade secretary, noted that "in the Matrix Churchill case, no rational person, who had looked at the files, could have said that the documents should not have been disclosed". The Public Interest Disclosure Bill, which is also backed by the Freedom of Information Campaign and has cross-party support, has been tabled by the Labour MP for Islington, Don Touhig.

Richard Shepherd, page 9

Rogue MP trumpets cause across outback

Graeme Campbell covers a vast area to woo voters and annoy the Labour Party, reports Christopher Zinn



Crossroads... Maverick MP Graeme Campbell finds a local resident with whom to discuss his options. All the places signposted are in his gigantic constituency

THE dusty outback seat of Kalgoorlie is said to be the biggest constituency in the world. Ten times the size of Britain, it is a suitably epic arena for Australia's most outspoken politician and bane of the Labour Party.

South. It is arid, sheep-farming land, but rich in gold and other minerals. To represent it in far-off Canberra requires stamina and sacrifice. Mr Campbell's wife Michelle said that in one 283-day period last year he was at home for just 31 nights.

Saturday's federal election. The maverick MP who turned Kalgoorlie from a safe Liberal to a safe Labour seat is fighting this time as an independent. In November he was finally expelled from the Labour Party after years of scathing outbursts.

But when the MP who arrived in Australia at the age of 11 as a £10 migrant helped launch a new party called Australian Against Further Immigration, he finally lost Labour's endorsement.

The gold-mining town, noted for having a street full of brothels, has certainly taken Mr Campbell to its heart. Stella Strong, who runs the Red House bordello, wrote to the Kalgoorlie Miner newspaper: "He has always treated my staff and me as equals."

MP, such support might not be enough. "It's very, very hard to win as an independent but I think I can hold it. I wouldn't put it any higher than that," Mr Campbell said last night.

Howard [the opposition leader] with any enthusiasm. They are voting against Keating. Mr Campbell is an out-and-out populist. He boasts that he is Anglo-Celtic and proud of it. He claims to have the support of many immigrants who, he believes, want to be part of a robustly Australian and not a "politically correct" culture.

He also claims to have the support of many of the Aborigines who live in remote communities in his constituency. He has great respect for his electorate. They "have a sense of independence, honesty and commonsense you don't find elsewhere in Australia," he says.

Vietnam's wildlife losing the peace

Rampant poaching and large-scale destruction of the rainforest to fuel the struggling economy is posing more of a threat to imperilled animals such as the langur monkey, right, than 50 years of warfare, writes Tony Perry



"You end up with a series of steep hillsides that are available for wildlife. They're like disconnected islands, and that's not a good way to manage habitat." William Langbauer, director of research at the Pittsburgh Zoo, said: "If we don't do something quick, a lot of indigenous species will go extinct."

Cuba defiant in face of US strong-arm tactics

THE United States used all its diplomatic muscle yesterday to push a statement through the United Nations Security Council deploring Cuba's shooting down of two civilian aircraft.

Cuba, but shrank from a weightier formal resolution. Although the US secured prompt action, the final statement was toned down substantially. Instead of condemning Cuba, the council said it strongly deplored Cuba's action. A reference to Cuba as a threat to world order was deleted.

Cuba, which says it shot down the two US civilian planes in defence of its airspace after issuing warnings, reacted with defiance. "Cuba neither fears nor accepts threats," the foreign ministry said in a statement published on the front page of the Communist Party daily Granma.

also cover the provocation of earlier flights by Brothers to the Rescue into Cuba. The US administration has been criticised by some analysts for not acting to prevent Brothers to the Rescue from violating Cuban sovereignty. Diplomats attributed American "haste at the UN to the intense domestic pressure on President Clinton to adopt a firm position. Within the Florida primary two weeks away, Mr Clinton's Republican rivals in the presidential campaign are jockeying for political advantage.

IF HALF a century of war was bad for the wild animals of Vietnam, 20 years of peace are proving even worse. The Indochina tiger which once roamed the countryside is rarely seen. Elephants, bears, peacocks, the clouded leopard, deer, monkeys and other wildlife are disappearing because of rampant poaching and large-scale destruction of the forest.

German zoos and the American branch of the World Wide Fund for Nature are working with the Vietnamese to save threatened species. "You have wildlife that somehow managed to survive 50 years of warfare but may not survive the next 15 to 20 years of economic growth," said Karen Killman, associate curator of mammals at the San Diego Zoo.

zunist government is felling forests to provide land for farms and factories. With a population of 75 million growing annually by 2 per cent, Vietnam is one of the most densely populated and fastest growing countries in Asia.

Despite China's request for a delay to give Cuba's foreign minister, Roberto Robaina Gonzalez, a chance to address the council, the US insisted on immediate action. The result was a 16-hour session yesterday and harsh exchanges between the US ambassador, Madeleine Albright, and her Chinese counterpart, Qin Huasun.

Colombia considers Nixon-style solution to Samper's Watergate

Pressure is growing for the president to go before the case against him is resolved, writes Phil Gunson in Bogotá

WHAT did President Ernesto Samper do with the drugs money that allegedly financed his 1994 campaign? When did he know it, and did he, as his former defence minister and campaign manager, claim, mount a "big cover-up" when word began to leak out?

Ironically, for a country that rewrote its constitution as recently as 1991, the coup proposal is not the only plan that is outside the legal framework. Last week the newspaper El Espectador suggested a constitutional amendment to allow fresh elections. The plan has some support: even the president has not ruled it out, though he continues to say his innocence must be established first.

whether he knew [about the drug cartel contributions] or not, he's in the same boat". Another solution which appears to be gathering support is a punto final (full stop) law, vaguely modelled on the Argentine law of the same name that granted amnesty to military officers accused of human rights abuses under the dictatorship.

China pours scorn on the 'failure' John Major

JOHN MAJOR'S travails appear to have finally led the Chinese Communist Party to ditch its predilection for watching Western politicians. Mr Major, who is expected to meet the Chinese prime minister, Li Peng, in Bangkok tomorrow, has been described by Beijing's mouthpiece in Hong Kong as the failed leader of a failed party.

Tibetans die in desert of snow

THE worst snow storms for a century are ending, but the lives of tens of thousands of Tibetan nomads by devastating the herds of yak and sheep they depend upon for food, clothing and fuel.

and was told there was enough food for a week. Officials estimate that 25,000 people have lost all their cattle, and a further 55,000 have lost more than 80 per cent. At least 700,000 yaks and sheep are thought to have died.

News in brief

- Hutus kill 46 refugees: Hutu rebels killed 46 people in refugee camps in two attacks in north-western Burundi, an army regional commander said yesterday. Colonel Lucien Ruyirya said 30 people were killed and two soldiers wounded in attacks on Monday in Cibitoke province. Rebels killed 16 people in another raid in the province on Friday. - Reuters. Dhaka crackdown: Bangladesh police arrested another two key opposition figures yesterday in what appears to be a continuing crackdown on government opponents. They were Tofayel Ahmed of the Awami League and Abdul Kader Mollah of the Jamaat-e-Islami. - AP. PLO minister ill: Farouk Kaddoumi, who serves as the PLO's foreign minister, has been taken to hospital in Tunis with heart problems. - AP. 10 die in pile-up: At least 10 people died yesterday when more than 120 lorries and cars crashed and burst into flames in thick fog on a motorway near the northern Belgian city of Ghent. - AP. Temporary support: Managers of a struggling factory in the southern Russian city of Voronezh are unable to pay their workers in rubles, so have started paying them in bras instead. The machine-building plant apparently traded some of its products for a shipment of Chinese-made bras. - AP.

step aside for the good of the country. Constitutionally, the president's fate is in the hands of the legislature, whose members are held in low esteem by an apathetic and cynical public.

The case seems likely to drag on for months and end in a second exonerations - unless, that is, moves afoot to change the rules of the game.

Under the constitution, if he were impeached or stepped down voluntarily the vice-president, Humberto de la Calle, would serve out his term.

Others favour a full amnesty in return for permanent withdrawal from public life. A solution some feel would allow Mr Samper a dignified way out of the crisis. It would be, in the words of one senator, "a Nixon solution à la Colombiana".

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مكتبة ابن النجار

Blair: tough on pollution
But will he be tough on the causes of pollution?

IF TONY BLAIR means what he says about the environment then his speech yesterday at the Royal Society will mark a watershed in Labour's approach to this vitally important subject which has often seemed of only peripheral interest.

quality and access to the countryside, to his own restatement of Clause 4 which inserts concern for a healthy environment where nationalisation used to be.

These are, of course, mere words and some of them — like stakeholding — have only been in Labour's vocabulary a matter of weeks.

What might give Blair's vision a longevity that some of his predecessors' efforts lacked (like Harold Wilson's opportunistic espousal of new technology) is that it is driven by a moral as well as an economic imperative.

Time to stand up to Mr Howard

The Prisons Ombudsman must confront the Home Secretary

THE Prisons Ombudsman meets the Home Secretary today. They are in serious disagreement over their respective powers. There have even been reports of the Ombudsman, Vice Admiral Sir Peter Woodhead, threatening to resign — reports which he has denied.

intervened in the most minute details, demanding 1,000 documents from the Director in four months on different matters and yet visiting only six prisons over 13 months.

Sir Peter is on probation. He knows he was a poor second choice — the original shortlist of three distinguished penologists being rejected by the Home Secretary for being too liberal.

Colombia and the politics of evil

The blame for narcotic-related corruption must be shared

NARCO-POLITICS have been tolerated in Colombia for years, but a critical mass of public protest has led to a challenge which now threatens the President himself. It is no secret that drug traffickers have manipulated a whole series of presidential campaigns over many years.

opened a crack in the unity of Colombia's power-sharing elite under which a climate of political repression and institutionalised crime has flourished for nearly three decades.

For years it has suited the purposes of US hemispheric policy to condone the savagery of successive regimes. And it does not take much effort to guess where the biggest market can be found for Colombian cocaine.



Letters to the Editor

Scott, not quite forgotten

GOVERNMENT ministers have sought to extricate themselves from Scott by claiming they are prepared to open up information (Tories hang on by one vote, February 27).

more serious charges against the Government. Brian Kelly, 63 Corona Road, London SE12 9LU.

LET'S have an end to all this confusion surrounding the Scott report. On Newsnight on Monday night, Ian Lang MP, made everything clear: there is such a thing as a 'wrong fact'.

ROY HATTERSLEY chides Peter Mandelson for not reading a library shelf full of dead political philosophers (Bubble 'n' squeak, February 27), but has clearly himself not even read the full title of Peter's book.

son/Liddle excerpt of community, as quoted, covers the need for a stake in society, especially through employment, the restoration of high-quality public services, and the balancing of rights with obligations.

WILL Mr Major now amend questions of procedure to say that ministers may knowingly mislead Parliament, provided that they do so without duplicitous intent?

I WAS amazed to hear Ian Lang accuse the last Labour government of supplying arms to Argentina, and say that these arms were subsequently used against British troops.

PAUL FOOT (February 28) should also be brought to task for perpetuating the myth that Lord Armstrong was author of the 'subtle' expression 'being economical with the truth'.

THE New Labour agenda proposed by Peter Mandelson and Roger Liddle is one that many of us who are active workers for the party will feel unable to promote.

Mandelson and Liddle advocate a dynamic market economy, competitive markets, regulation not social ownership of public utilities, no overall planning of the economy, and high reward for top-salaried management.

The long view

ASKED if they would pay an extra £5 a year on their television licence so the BBC could buy more sporting events, 62 per cent of respondents said they would not.

THAT the Argentines responded as they did to this open invitation can be laid at the door of Mrs Thatcher's government. We are not told if there was any arms trade with Argentina between 1979 and 1982 and, if not, why it was stopped.

I accept that Lord Armstrong did not designedly mislead as to the authorship of this famous euphemism; he was just being economical with his sources.

Mandelson and Liddle's common-ownership Clause 4, it deprived itself of a clear socialist economic alternative. Now it refuses to call for any real affection for a meeting of minds with young people will be appalled.

His vision of schools as boot camps, with teachers keeping disruptive and vandalistic youth off the streets with evening and Saturday night detentions, shows what an use of spiriting low-life view he has of the world and of the place of education in that world.

The luvvies are losing it

CLAIRE Armitstead (Provoctions, February 26) has it in her power to banish 'luvvies' from our arts pages.

use of the word 'philistine' to disparage all outsiders who disagree with them? Denise Kelly, 13 Pockington Hill, Kegworth DE74 2DF.

AN advertisement for a Aesthete person in your Media column last week (February 19) ended: 'This is a sales job, no luvvies please.' Who placed the ad? None other than The Stage. Charles Morgan, Bourne End, Bucks HP8 9LB.

THERE is much in the first extract from the book with which I agree, which is hardly surprising, since Roger Liddle and I were in agreement about two-thirds of the time when he was a fellow member of the Liberal Democrats' policy committee.

Take a few Saturday night detentions, Mr Mandelson, and look beyond the work-house for your inspiration. Sheema York, 9 Rosehill Road, London SW18.

Taking a gamble on two teddies

THE Gaming Board of Great Britain and Crown Prosecution Service are petitioning the House of Lords to try to prevent people converting a prize of two small teddy bears into one big one.

They were refused permission to appeal to the Lords when they lost in the Appeal Court. But the Board and the CPS see preventing convertibility of two teddies for one as a matter of great public importance.

They are prepared to spend £50,000 to £100,000 to establish the law — even though it is already perfectly clear, thanks to a judgment by Lord Justice Kennedy, that 'trading up' is lawful under the Gaming Act.

CHILTERN'S: It must be 10 years since I last failed to find a snowdrop open on Candlemas Day, February 2. They aren't truly wild here, and their usual blooming at this Catholic festival (the Feast of the Purification of the Virgin) is a hint that they may well have been introduced to Britain by monastic orders in the Middle Ages.

The mill has long since been replaced by a motel, but the snowdrops continue to appear, like a layer of frost, amongst the tangled grass round its edges. But our best colonies are around the village of Drayton Beauchamp, where they jostle along the village banks and carpet the churchyard of St Mary the Virgin. It is an apt site. Between 1860 and 1883 the incumbent was Henry Harpur Crews, a distinguished plantman with a penchant for snowdrops. Single and double varieties crowd around the ivy-climbed Victorian cross that marks his grave. But there is no trace of the green-tinted variety that was named after him, or of the pink snowdrop which some parishioners swear they have seen in the village a myth, but then Drayton is where, in 1933, I heard a local explain the churchyard's abundant wild garlic by saying: 'It does help to keep the Devil out.'

Sadler's well

MAY I correct the impression that Sadler's Wells may have to forgo a £30 million Millennium grant (Matching funds death may leave embarrassment of lottery riches, February 26). In fact we are currently drawing down £4 million of the grant to complete our designs. We are confident that construction work will start this summer and that, before completion, we will have raised all the necessary partnership funding.

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Handwritten note: شكرا من الارجون

Diary Matthew Norman

FROM Cardiff comes a fax that renders me speechless with excitement. Boris the Jackal Johnson, the Telegraph enforcer, has been selected, it confirms, as Tory candidate for Clwyd South. God be praised, and who cares if the attached CV is a shade selective, concentrating on education and career at the expense of hobbies (McClung talent night down the Blind Beggar, for the record, and amateur dentistry)? Meanwhile, although Labour's Marty Jones has a majority of 5,000, Tory chairman Ian Reynolds OBE is optimistic. "We are thrilled to have such an eminent journalist as our candidate."

PLEASE God the Jackal is not the mysterious journalist denounced in the Commons last week by Peter Bottomley, the well-meaning but obtuse MP for Epping. Who can be sure, though, writes Bolmondely stayed silent and the guilty man skulls behind his cloak of anonymity? Yesterday, the finger of suspicion pointed briefly at Lord Deedes and the Mirror's Henry Harris. Those two were swiftly cleared. For for the rest of us, however, the torture goes on.

GRAHAM Pearcy writes from Surrey about the early attempts of the Halifax to adapt to the times. He merged with another building society, the Leeds. He received a letter from general manager Paul Martin, explaining that "over time, we intend to remove some of the duplication". On the same day, Mr Pearcy receives a second letter from Paul Martin, reassuring him that "over time, we intend to remove some of the duplication".

THE last word on the Scott report has come, predictably enough, from the ruby-red lips of my friend Elizabeth Fegh, the maverick Tory MP for Buntingford. Last time we met, Mrs Peacock was considering whether to sue herself for libel, but has now turned her laser-like mind to weightier matters. Writing in the Spensborough Guardian, she says: "It is an absolute disgrace that Parliament should spend so much time discussing a report of such size and weight that I could not carry it, never mind read it." How true — and how much longer Parliament might have found had the report been less of a burden to the scales. However, Mrs Peacock's criticisms extend far beyond pounds and ounces; the debates provoked by the report were boring, she insists, and "make bad television".

THE consumer-affairs desk has been contacted by Mr Michael Wint of the London Restaurant Guide, a body offering members discounts on meals and even the occasional free glass of house wine. Mr Wint says he is keen to meet up "to discuss ways in which we can work together... I would like to discuss editorial about our activities." For such editorial, Mr Wint offers a commission on the fees of new members recruited thanks to the article. The Diary is completely corrupt (it intends, for example, to accept the free meal offered by Mr A Latif, Lord of Harpole, whose Newcastle restaurant was plagiarised here last week), and is keen to be bribed. The only problem, Mr Wint, is this nonsense about commission. If you can come up with a decent down payment, I think we can do business.

FROM Police Magazine comes yet more encouraging evidence that the constabulary's intellectual standards continue their inexorable climb. A certain PC Reif, on attachment to Telford CID, filled in a form about the suspect's facial hair, and his answers are shown in italics. Type: moustache. Colour: Black. Description: top of lips.

IT'S DOLE GOING MULTI-MEDIA.



Military manoeuvres keep us in the dark

Commentary Will Hutton

BRITAIN has just been paid an extraordinary compliment — the more remarkable because of whence it came. President Chirac, launching the biggest shake-up of the French defence effort and strategy for 30 years, told his fellow countrymen that his aim was for France's army to become at least the equal of Britain's within six years. Gaullist France has for long boasted that it is the world's third military power, the standing army and nuclear capacity, together with equipment and technology, the military-industrial complex, in which the aim was to fight a set-piece war in mainland Europe, France's claim made some sense. But after the Gulf war and Bosnia, underlining

defence policies, should become the fully fledged European arm of Nato and responsible to the EU's Council of Ministers. They want a Common Foreign and Security Policy together with its own secretary-general and planning staff, and they aim to build up the Euro-corps so that it can move men and munitions on a scale that currently only the British possess. Moreover they urge more majority voting in Brussels, and a definite commitment that those countries that wish to accelerate the integration process will be free to do so — and not subject to the veto of the most reluctant, in other words the British.

With France in the throes of change Europe's defence leadership is there for the taking

natural and political difficulties that the grand talk of integration carefully ignores. Establishing a professional army is not just a technical matter for either the French or Germans; history casts a long shadow over both countries. Charles Millon, the French defence minister, writing in Le Monde this week (see page 11), tries to assure the French public that ending conscription need not end the tradition of republican civic virtue established in the Revolution of doing military service to serve the republic. In Germany the concern about professionalising the army is even more deep-

The secret guardians

We must legislate for open government if we are to prevent the dishonesty revealed by Scott, argues Richard Shepherd



IF THE Scott report has one unifying theme, it is secrecy. Sir Richard Scott is critical of the secretive way in which arms-licensing decisions are taken and of the proposition that all "policy" documents, regardless of their contents, must be protected by public-interest immunity. Above all, he reminds us how easily and often information is withheld from Parliament and public. This, in particular, seems to have inspired his critics, who see nothing unusual about the parliamentary answers that he highlights, and marvel that he does not understand why it is necessary to keep MPs in the dark. Scott does not merely document the incomplete and misleading replies given to parliamentary questions — he spells out the consequences. "In circumstances where disclosure might be politically or administratively inconvenient, the balance struck by the Government comes down, time and time again, against full disclosure," he concludes. "This secrecy 'denies the public the ability to make an informed judgement on the Government's record', 'involves a dilution... of the obligations imposed by ministerial accountability', and 'undermines, in my opinion, the democratic process'."

taken seriously by Whitehall, and the code provides new opportunities for a court of law. But the Government is not obliged to follow the ombudsman's recommendations. Ministers are above all politicians, with political instincts. What will those instincts tell them to do when the information sought is so damaging that it would threaten their jobs if made public? A Freedom of Information Act would remove the option of "tonguing out" an unwelcome decision. It would apply across the whole public sector (the code does not) and it would override the innumerable statutory prohibitions on disclosure, which an administrative code cannot do. But I believe freedom of information must have a more fundamental reason. It would establish that it is our right as citizens to know what the Government is doing. That government has no option but to refer them to the public's accountability cannot be based on the flexible interpretation of guidelines or the willingness of a parliament to tolerate a lack of frankness — but on a binding obligation set out in law. There is no Freedom of Information Bill before Parliament at present, but in a few days' time another bill which touches some of these themes comes up for debate. Don Tony's Public Interest Disclosure Bill would protect from reprisals employees and civil servants who raise concerns about crime, fraud or serious malpractice. They must raise the issue internally first, giving those in charge the chance to put things right. Here too is the principle of accountability, for once those at the top have learnt what is going on, they will be liable for the damage done by their failure to act. If an individual raises the matter internally, but nothing is done and serious malpractice continues, the individual would be protected for revealing the matter. He or she must not be acting in bad faith, or trying to make

John Redwood finds plenty in the Mandelson/Riddle book to worry Labour friend and foe alike Left with no beef

IT IS a sign of the times for a Labour MP to team up with a former founder of the SDP to make money out of New Labour. Peter Mandelson and Roger Liddle roll out the platitudes in their new book. Socialists will be left asking: where is the socialism? The rest of us will ask: where is the beef? It's a mixture of hot air and constitutional turmoil. We are offered hot air for training, hot air for higher educational standards, hot air for stakeholding, hot air for more training and hot air for everyone having an opportunity. We are offered regional government and more Whitehall government. We are promised a strengthened Number 10, a revamped and beefed up Cabinet Office and superministers leading teams of Cabinet ministers to implement main policies. It is mainly Blair, but there are oases of constitutional upheaval. There's something for everyone, even for MPs. They are promised better salaries. It is difficult to see why, for the rest of the book is an attack upon the powers and duties of Parliament. Health, education, local government, transport and environment matters would transfer to the new regional assemblies. Control over interest rates, the level of public borrowing and much else besides would pass to the European Central Bank.

ought to be able to tackle the problems of education immediately. His party is in power in many places. Why did his party waste so much time opposing tests and publication of test results, when they now think measuring and publishing performance matters? Peter Mandelson's book just opens up the fears of many about New Labour. The true socialist will ask: what's the point of Labour winning if it's not committed to redistribution, nationalisation and state planning? The uncommitted voter will want to know why Labour, already in power in county and borough government, has not done in our schools what it is now promising. Some feasting voters will float away again before the election. They are certainly not going to like Labour's view that we should give our country away to Brussels and Frankfurt as a friendly gesture to Chancellor Kohl. The Blair Revolution — Can New Labour Deliver? (Faber, £9.99)

All the way from Clause IV to Corinthians I



David McKie

HALF WAY through Saturday's Guardian extracts from Peter Mandelson's (and Roger Liddle's) new book, I suddenly thought of the Labour Church, an institution from the early days of the Movement more ambitious and elaborate in design than the nowadays more often remembered Socialist Sunday Schools. It began, like so many good things, in Manchester, and spread rapidly through the cotton manufacturing towns of Lancashire and the West Riding, though (rather like Rugby League) it never took root in the South. The Church brought together two kinds of socialist: those who were devout Christians, and others with no such beliefs who simply felt that if you wanted to preach a faith you needed a church. At Bolton, the oldest Congregational church in the town defected en bloc to the Labour Church after listening to an address by the dockers' leader Ben Tillet. In Bradford, where Liberal non-conformists refused to give Tillet a platform, the socialists in the congregation defected and set up a Labour Church of their own. The church had its own hymns, whose tunes were often pragmatically pinched from existing hymnals. Like God Save The Working Man, sung to the tune of the National Anthem.

The creed preached by Mandelson (and Liddle) may be entirely secular, yet it seems here and there to have a smack of religious observance about it. That is partly because it calls for such a lot of repentance. Those who over the years subscribed to, or even vaguely supported, Old Labour have clearly been at the most grievous fault. They have done those things which they ought not to have done, and left undone those things they ought to have done — like getting rid of what Mandelson (and Liddle) call the "infamous Clause IV long before the final years of this century. You can catch this spirit most clearly in the long list of paragraphs in Saturday's Guardian setting out "a new synthesis to which all of the centre and left can subscribe", each beginning with the trigger "whereas". Now "whereas" is lawyer's language, the stuff of binding agreements or even of constitutions, much more than the language of Church. Yet the way it's deployed by Mandelson (and Liddle) irresistibly recalls passages like the one in Corinthians I where the images have to do with pass-

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Anna Larina

Child of the Revolution

HERE are few happy endings in Russian history. But the life of Anna Larina... Anna Larina lived to tell the tale - and to deliver Bukharin's final letter to the country he had helped create...



Bukharin... executed, 1938

Larina was a true child of the revolution. After her mother's death from tuberculosis, she had been adopted by an aunt, Yelena, and her invalid husband, Yuri Larin...



Anna Larina... Stalin delivered her love letter to Bukharin

negotiate the purchase of the Marx archive from former Menshevik colleagues. In the midst of delicate discussions, aware that any sign of disloyalty to Stalin would be reported to Moscow...

Despite interrogation by Lavrenty Beria, Stalin's henchman, and the hellish life of the Gulag, Larina survived. Many wives, including Ekaterina Kalina, wife of the Soviet President...

to do so until 1969, when under Khrushchev's amnesty the victims of Stalin's Terror, she was fully pardoned. Her son, Yuri, brought up in orphanages...

Opoyok and Bukharin's letter was published in December 1987. The following year the literary journal Znamya began the serialisation of her memoirs...

Isobel Montgomery
Anna Larina, born January 27, 1914; died February 24, 1996

Another Day

February 28, 1945: Harold [Nicolson] told us several stories about literary celebrities. In 1919 he dined with Frost, who made it tell him...

Birthdays

Peter Alliss, golfer, commentator, 65; Philip Ballhache, Bellif of Jersey, 50; Stephanie Beacham, actress, 47; Alfred Burke, actor, 78; Dr Jonathan Clark, historian, 85; Robin Cook, Labour MP, shadow Foreign Secretary, 50; Barry Fantoni, novelist, cartoonist and jazz musician, 86; Tristan Garel-Jones MP, former Conservative minister, 65; Helen Grindrod, QC, Crown Court Recorder, 81; Sir Anthony Hawley-Allen, film producer, 82; Maj Gen Michael Hobbs, director, Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme, 58; Prof Susan Iversen, behavioural psychologist, 58; Prof John Irvine, physicist, principal and vice-chancellor, Aberdeen University, 57; Thomas Kemper, Emeritus Professor of Management Studies, Brunel University, 62; Jeremy Lancaster, chairman and managing director, Wolsley, 63; Barry McGuigan, boxer, 58; George Malcolm, pianist, composer, 79; Brian Moore, football commentator, 64; Robin Phillips, actor and director, 64; Peter Stothard, editor, the Times, 45; Sir Brian Urquhart, former assistant secretary-general, UN, 77.

Death Notices

MAGDOLENE, 28th October. On 25th February 1996, Mrs Magdolene (nee Wainwright) passed peacefully after a long illness. She was the widow of the late Mr J. Wainwright...

Birthdays

Happy Birthday and get better soon. Love from an old mate.

USE WILL POWER TO CHEAT DEATH... KONEY RESEARCH FUND

Hugh Lamprey

Made in Africa

THE moment Hugh Lamprey, who has died aged 77, set foot in Africa, that continent was to be his life. He had already intended to Iceland, the Himalayas and the Canaries on student expeditions...



Wildlife expert... Lamprey

rocks, altered instructions to the ground crew, and was flying back to base. On another occasion, when landing near Lake Victoria, he heard popping but did not realise trigger-happy frontier guards were shooting his way...

Letters

Michael Smith writes: Being sixth form at university in 1960, I worked in St Pancras branch libraries, operating under postwar austerity...

The Duke of Atholl

Arms and the man

THE 10th Duke of Atholl, who has died at the age of 64, was the only man in Western Europe still licensed to raise a private army. He inspired rumours of a march on Westminster in 1978...

1974-93 and a director of Pearson Longman, part of the media group Pearson, between 1978 and 1983. He was also chairman of the Royal National Lifeboat Institution, president of the Scottish Landowners Federation...

Jackdaw



Dear Deng

I HEAR THAT I can just change my way of thinking, your Lordship might even stoop to grant me mercy. Now, of course people's thinking is always subject to change, but if you're asking me to change my basic values, well, my ideas are the fruit of long-term hardship and reflection...

self can have only had results - for you and for China. My problem is that I have little ambition and no particular talent, but at least I'm wide open to different ideas.

now, you may undo your genuine accomplishments. So it's time to make way for younger people and use your fading energy to preserve yourself in your old age. If you want to maintain your status, that's the best thing to do.

to smoke cigars. I couldn't find them. Occasionally I found the venues themselves, but I never found them teeming with patrons. A woman at one of the restaurants said, "We're not a cigar bar, but if we're empty, people can smoke cigars. I began to put it together: Cigar Aficionado might have a vested interest in hyping a cigar craze that doesn't exactly exist."

smoking cigars was "something my fiancé and I could enjoy together, something interesting and different. You'd think she would have noticed that they had so little they could enjoy together before they got engaged. They probably went from months of uncomfortable silence to such stimulating conversation as: "Honey, are you puffing?" "I don't even date, but I feel safe in counselling that if you see cigar smoking as a beacon of hope for interaction with our fiancé, you've unearthed a fairly severe shortcoming in the relationship. It might be a good time to go back over the guest list for your wedding and eliminate the groom."

Prospect magazine advertisement

ter and dog, with no barking, no excess digging, no wasted energy. Is intense. Mandarin, quivering with dilutive intelligence, was not up to scratch because this oak grove was not her usual patch. "Cherches, Mandarin, cherches!" "Où elle est? Où elle est?" Rocchia's whispered encouragements might have whipped up a mild sexual fervour in all of us, but it had not been for the wind. Mandarin trembled and scurried and tunneled. Suddenly Rocchia was on his knees beside her. She stepped aside to let him finish. What a delicate job! He scooped up the cold, friable soil and sank his face into it. "Ah, small beast!" He held up the precious black growth, his nose shaded by a chestnut smear of earth. Encircling him, we waited for initiation...

ple in Provence today. All of us from London were sad about this, because we had been led to expect one, but "Le cockon est mort," declared Rocchia - so that was that. We have some fine specimens to hand now, and it's time to eat... Rocchia relaxes over the wine and reflects upon his part-time life as a rabbi. (The rabbi is the local name for truffle, and it's derogatory.) He says that the hunt for the truffle is probably a greater pleasure than eating it. True. Truffle-hunting is a passion, ambivalent for all concerned, often practised under difficult conditions, but compelling and addictive. Lesley Chamberlain takes a trip from London to Provence in search of the "black diamond". From Prospect magazine.

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Finance Guardian

Record £2bn for Barclays

Roger Cowe

BARCLAYS yesterday continued the strong profit performance from the banks, breaking the £2 billion barrier for the first time to earn what chief executive Martin Taylor described as "a return that is very high by historical standards".

The bank's staff union, Unifi, leapt on the results as buttressing its pay claim. Yesterday, it revealed that 85 per cent of members had turned down a pay offer from Barclays which it said was worth 2.8 per cent.

The union has asked for a minimum of 3.2 per cent to keep pace with annual inflation up to the end of January. It also wants less overtime and a minimum pay level in line with the "European decency threshold".

Unifi assistant general secretary, Iain MacLean, said last night: "There are 17,000 staff paid below the decency threshold. In a bank that's making more than £2 billion profit, that is absolutely scandalous."

Mr MacLean said the results would strengthen his members' resolve in resisting the pay offer, despite last year's abortive national strike which failed to force a higher offer out of the bank. The ballot result yesterday showed that 85 per cent of union members were in favour of moving to a strike ballot.

Chairman Andrew Buxton said he was confident a settlement could be reached without another strike, and promised that most staff would be better off as a result of the total pay offer.

He was non-committal, however, on claims from the banking union Bifu that 10,000 jobs were at risk between now and the end of the



Telling smiles... Barclays chief executive Martin Taylor (left) and chairman Andrew Buxton, confident staff will not strike

decade. "It may be a reasonable estimate," Mr Buxton said. But he added: "The trend of numbers will be downwards from the impact of technology. But there will be more people in technology, more in banking services and more in investment banking. I can't give overall figures because we haven't got them."

The major branch closure programme has come to an end, however. Only a handful of branches were closed last year and the same will apply in 1996.

The bank's resistance to higher salaries will have been buoyed by City concerns that its cost base has been expanding too fast. Total costs rose by 8 per cent last year, although that was exaggerated by special costs such as redundancy, and the rate of increase fell to 3 per cent in the second half of the year.

Concern about costs and disappointment that the bank did not initially announce plans to buy back shares, led to Barclays' share price falling yesterday morning.

But a buy-back was announced in the afternoon. Barclays used just over £300 million of its spare cash to buy 40 million shares, or 2.5 per cent of the total, repeating last year's exercise.

Martin Taylor said: "We have got plenty of cash to do what we need to do. A buy-back is a way of managing our capital."

Notebook

Greasing wheels for easier ride

Alex Brummer

BRINGING Railtrack to the stock market has not been the easy ride of some earlier privatisations. A year ago, the Government was forced to back down on the charges which Railtrack would make to the franchisees, after it became clear that the rates of return would not be sustainable. This at a stroke halved the likely flotation returns. More recently, there has been great concern to show that the franchisees can be successfully put in the commercial sector so that the published projections, on flotation have some credibility in the marketplace.

The remaining obstacle to the sell-off has been debt levels. British Rail boss Bob Horton has maintained strongly throughout the transition that if Railtrack is to have a chance in the private sector then it cannot carry the current £1.5 billion on its books. The Government, fearful of what the Opposition will make of a huge new paper subsidy at this late stage (the prospectus and book building will be underway by late April), has balked. Now a crafty way has been found of squaring the circle. Railtrack's debt will be pared back to £588 million — which means the Treasury taking a £1 billion book hit — in return there has been a promise that Railtrack will plough up more than half-a-billion pounds into upgrading cross-London lines through Thameslink 2000, with the Government putting £100 million into the pot.

With Railtrack in the private sector, relatively unencumbered by debt, it should find the new capital requirement relatively easy given the promise of extra income from running some 24 trains an hour in each direction against the current six.

The Government's retreat on Railtrack debt, with the promise of extra earnings, already is being seen as positive for the flotation. Estimates in the past have suggested that the Treasury would raise around £1.5 billion from flotation — that figure is now moving to £1.7 billion and northwards. At that level, Railtrack could make the Footsie, vital in terms of attracting some fund management interest. This will all no doubt be great for investors and frustrated London travellers: but as for the taxpayer, they might wonder why the Treasury/Transport department has bothered.

Cautious Barclays

MARTIN Taylor's leadership capacity as chief executive of Barclays has yet to be tested in a crisis similar to that at the turn of this decade. But he does have a creative way of thinking about the way which Barclays does business which should serve it in good stead.

Although operating profits are down, largely due to problems in France and other businesses it hopes to dispose of, the before tax profits are better at £2.1 billion because of lower provisions. Mr Taylor's objective is to smooth the cycle and reduce risk, both admirable goals. Partly he is doing this by re-thinking what the business does and the interconnections.

Plainly, BZW and asset management is a key area and profits in this division were peculiarly healthy when compared to competitors such as HSBC which reported 23-hour earlier. Just how cautious Barclays has become is emphasised by the relatively modest share buyback, disclosed after the results were announced, which is a soubre way of spending money than throwing good money after bad.

Kvaerner sees Trafalgar as global launch-pad

Analysts say HongKong Land holds key, while shares rise to nine-month high in expectation of an offer, writes Tony May

TRAFALGAR House yesterday had a bid approach from Kvaerner, the Norwegian conglomerate which narrowly failed to buy the Amec construction group in December.

Trafalgar, the struggling engineering and construction group best known for its Cunard cruise ships, including the QE2, announced that Kvaerner had expressed an interest in making a bid but "only with the recommendation of the board".

The statement came after a walter of stock market speculation pushed Trafalgar's share price up to a six-month high. Analysts said Kvaerner may have to pay more than £1 billion for the company.

A Trafalgar spokesman said he expected Kvaerner to make a formal offer soon. The Norwegian group confirmed that it was pursuing talks with a view to "exploiting

Gas supply free-for-all delayed by one month

Geoffrey Gibbs

THE planned introduction of open competition into the supply of domestic gas in the south-west of England has been delayed for a month to process licence applications and test computer systems.

Aspiring suppliers have for some time been courted by the 500,000 consumers in Devon, Cornwall and Somerset with a wide range of incentives in the hope of persuading them to switch away from British Gas when the pilot project gets under way.

Opening up of the market had been expected to begin on April 1. But Energy Minister Tim Eggar said yesterday that on the recommendation of Ofgas, the gas industry watchdog, the move would not take place until April 29.

He said the four-week delay would allow time for the thorough processing of licence applications and would ensure that administrative and computer systems were ready. "It is a complex procedure, and we need to get it as right as possible before 'going live' with consumers."

News of the deferral came as yet another would-be supplier has shown its hand in a bustling market where existing rivals include SwebGas, Amerada Hess, Total and a consortium made up of Calor and Texaco.

British Fuels, the coal, oil and gas supplier established late last year in a management buyout from British Coal, said it would be offering consumers annual savings of up to £200 and a package that includes no standing charges.

It is also dangling the carrot of £150 off the cost of a holiday for those who sign up within the next four weeks.

British Gas, which has deliberately withheld announcing its own tariff proposals until it sees what competitors are offering in terms of price and service, said yesterday that it would have been ready for an April 1 start-up. But John Kent, director of business development at British Gas Supply, said that if a short delay ensured competition could be introduced in an orderly fashion, the company supported the Ofgas decision.

Hard selling of the new packages on offer in the region has already caused controversy with SwebGas, one of the earliest declared entrants, coming under fire recently from the Gas Consumers' Council.

Competitors have been promising savings of up to 20 per cent on existing gas bills, with Calorex — anticipating the delay in the start-up date — guaranteeing recently that its projected savings would be backdated to the beginning of April.

Competition in the domestic market will be extended next year from the three western counties to include a further 1.5 million homes in the south-east of England, before embracing the whole of the country in 1998.

Errors led to £825,000 DTI loan for failed software firm

Geoffrey Gibbs

SERIOUS mistakes were made in the handling of £825,000 of government loans to a failed computer software company, an DTI investigation has concluded.

The loans were made under the Government's Regional Selective Assistance scheme to Rom Data Corporation, a Falmouth-based company that collapsed into liquidation in November 1994.

Events surrounding the company's failure are being investigated by the Serious Fraud Office and the DTI admitted yesterday that the extent to which it might be able to recover any of the money was unclear.

The internal report is particularly critical of the way officials raised no objection to business plan. Kenneth Holmes, former chairman of the South West Industrial Development Board, accepting an invitation to join the Rom Data board after advising on the loans.

BSkyB shares soar as French stakeholder plans demerger

Paul Murphy

SPECULATION that another founder of satellite television group BSkyB might be looking to sell its shareholding raged again yesterday as Chargeurs, the French conglomerate, announced it was splitting in two.

Rumours ran through the stock market at reports that Chargeurs was about to issue a statement. Shares in BSkyB surged to 420p at one stage — up 37p — with Japanese electronics and media group Sony seen as a likely buyer for the French company's 17 per cent holding.

Later Chargeurs said it would be demerging its television, cinema and newspaper interests into a new company — named Faibe after a 19th century French pianist — and the rump of the group's interests, spreading from textiles to transport, will be retained by Chargeurs.

Shares in BSkyB finally settled at 386p, up 54p, but rumours that a disposal of the French holding was being planned refused to die down. Media specialists have been waiting for such a move since

Teenagers who work while studying fare worse at exams

Sarah Hyle

THE rising number of teenagers supplementing pocket money with part-time work is damaging exam results, according to a report published yesterday.

A study of 16- to 18-year-olds found that teenagers working between six and nine hours a week, the average number, did 25 per cent less well than their non-working peers, gaining an average two O-level or CSE Grade 1 passes against two and a half. The research was published by the Institute for Fiscal Studies, an economic think-tank.

The proportion of 16- to 18-year-olds in full-time education managing part-time jobs rose to 59 per cent in 1988-91, compared to 40 per cent in 1968-71.

The authors found, however, that part-time work did not affect wage levels later on in life. They used the National Child Development Study (NCDS) which tracked the progress of 4,000 people born in 1958 at 16, 23 and 33.

There was also little evidence to suggest that family wealth put financial pressure on children to go out to work while still at school. Using data from the annual Family Expenditure Survey, the study showed that the children of unemployed parents were less likely to work part-time while at school than other children.

Part-time jobs could bring advantages in terms of work experience, the authors suggested.

Earning and Learning, Fiscal Studies February 1996. IFS, 7 Ridgmount Street, London WC1E.

Ulster plane jobs fear after Bombardier drops Fokker bid

Clare Trevena in Toronto

UP TO 1,500 workers in Northern Ireland's Short Brothers could be laid off following the decision by the Canadian firm, Bombardier, not to bid for the Dutch airplane manufacturer, Fokker.

A sixth of the Short's workforce constructs wings for the F70 and F100 series. And while Bombardier, Shorts parent company, hopes the programme to build those planes can continue, it has given notice of the lay-offs.

"We are still hoping the Fokker programme can continue for some time," said Bombardier company spokesman Michel Lord. "We have orders for aircraft and if they can continue delivering aircraft we can continue producing the wings."

Bombardier said if demand for those stops, there will be

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Canada 2.06	Hong Kong 11.72	New Zealand 2.25	Sweden 19.25
Cyprus 0.70	India 55.27	Norway 9.53	Switzerland 1.7500
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Finland 0.87	Israel 4.73	Saudi Arabia 0.75	USA 1.5075

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Racing

Dove favourite to pass Aintree test

Ken Oliver

DEXTRA DOVE, who failed by a short head to Sunley Bay at Newbury earlier this month when bidding for his eighth consecutive victory, is 9-2 favourite with Hill's for Saturday's Great Yorkshire Chase at Doncaster Chase at Doncaster.

prentice Patrick McCabe to join his high-powered jockey team. Loder already has Patrick's older brother, David, on his books. David, 23, is being groomed for the apprentice title, while the reigning champion jockey Frankie Dettori is the yard's number one, with Richard Hughes acting as his back-up.

sponsor, Juddmonte Farms has very generously agreed to continue for one year, for which we are extremely grateful. Phillip Mitchell, general manager of Juddmonte Farms, said: "We have always had an excellent relationship with York and are very pleased to continue for one more year."



Rough and tumble... Oxford's Cope (foreground) comes out ahead of Cambridge's Harding in yesterday's 98th University hockey match at Reading. The Dark Blues won 4-1, their sixth successive victory in the fixture. PHOTOGRAPH: FRANK BARON

Boxing

Schulz camp to sue IBF

Axel Schulz's manager is to sue the International Boxing Federation over its decision to deny the German the South African heavyweight tested positive for steroids after defeating Schulz in a title bout in December. Wilfried Sauerland said he would file suit in New Jersey and declared: "My lawyers expect the IBF to be knocked out in court in the first round."

Wetherby with guide to recent form

Table of racing results for Wetherby, including sections for 1.50, 2.20, 2.50, 3.20, 3.50, and 4.50. Each section lists race details, horse names, jockeys, and winners.

Wolverhampton (All-weather Flat)

Table of racing results for Wolverhampton All-weather Flat, including sections for 2.10, 2.40, and 3.10. Each section lists race details, horse names, jockeys, and winners.

Table of racing results for various tracks including Catterick, Leicester, and Taunton, listing race details and winners.

Taunton runners and riders

Table of racing results for Taunton, including sections for 1.50, 2.20, 2.50, 3.00, 3.50, and 4.50. Each section lists race details, horse names, jockeys, and winners.

Nottingham programme

Table of racing results for Nottingham, including sections for 2.15, 2.45, 3.15, 3.45, and 4.15. Each section lists race details, horse names, jockeys, and winners.

4.50

Table of racing results for various tracks including Taunton, Nottingham, and Wolverhampton, listing race details and winners.

RACELINE FULL RESULTS SERVICE 0891-168-168. WETHERBY TAUNTON NOTTINGHAM WOLVERHAMPTON IRISH. Includes contact information and race results.

Soccer

FA Cup, fifth-round replay: Port Vale 1, Leeds United 2

McAllister shoots down valiant Vale

David Lacey

GARY McALLISTER last night ended Port Vale's dream of a place in the FA Cup quarter-finals for the first time in 42 years and kept alive Leeds United's hopes of two Wembley appearances this season.

form than the fact that the combination of a cup run and postponements had restricted the team to four league matches in eight weeks. In fact they were unbeaten in 11 games and had lost only two in 19.

left-back's challenge, in the 37th the roars broke out again, this time in earnest. McCarthy, resuming normal duties on the right flank, drove the ball low into the middle where three Leeds defenders were waiting. However, none of them could prevent Naylor darting in to prod Port Vale ahead with a cheeky shot through Lukic's legs.

First Division: Crystal Palace 3, Birmingham City 2

Dyer provides the fire

Martin Thorpe

WHATEVER Harry's game is at Crystal Palace, it is working well. Since Basset took over five games ago, his new side have won three and lost just one.

night's game, but Barry Fry refused. However, the player got his wish after turning up late at Selhurst Park, prompting Fry to fine him two weeks' wages and declare him not in the right frame of mind to take the field.

Gordon shooting just wide. Then Dyer, Freedman and combined well to create all sorts of problems. The Eagles finally feathered their nest 10 minutes after the break. The full-back Edworthy lifted an up and under into six-yard box, Ndah jumped with Griemink and under suspicion of a foul on the goalkeeper headed against the bar. But there was no referee's whistle and the Palace central defender Davies slammed the loose ball into the net from close range.



Thomas on top... the 28-year-old celebrates his goal at Blackburn and will be hoping to repeat the trick tonight TOM JORDAN

Doubts clearing as Liverpool give Thomas run of Anfield

Charlton must beware the midfielder with a line in vital goals, writes Cynthia Bateman

WHERRAS Ian Rush has announced he is to leave Liverpool after they refused to offer him the two-year deal he was seeking. Until the Liverpool manager has persuaded Roy Evans to increase his offer to the 28-year-old midfielder to two years.

tenders Charlton will be aware that when Thomas scores, his goals tend to change the course of history. The most famous one, of course, came from the last kick of the match when he played for Arsenal at Anfield to deny Liverpool the Double in 1989. It seemed unlikely that he would dare show his face on Merseyside again, but in December 1991 Graeme Souness signed him for £1.5 million, and his next goal at Anfield put Liverpool through to the sixth round of the FA Cup.

Southend 0, Sunderland 2

Scott gives Southend attack of the vapours

Paul Weaver

SUNDERLAND climbed into second place in the First Division for the first time this year at fog-bound Roots Hall last night. A penalty by Martin Scott and a second goal 10 minutes before the end by the substitute Michael Bridges, who had been on the pitch only 25 seconds, left the club only five points behind Derby.

from Rammell, making his home debut, and Given had to make a sharp save. Sunderland, with only one defeat in their previous eight matches, were no more impressive in the first half, and Scott went close to breaking the deadlock for Southend in the 38th minute. He exchanged passes with Ball before putting in a firm left-foot drive which Royce did well to save.

bringing down Howey. Sunderland do not count their penalties until they have scored six out of nine this season - but this time Scott stroked the ball past Royce for his fifth goal of the season. Sunderland almost scored again in the 75th minute when Howey hit the bar, and from the rebound Michael Gray had a left-foot shot brilliantly saved by Royce.

Results

Soccer

FA CUP

Fifth-round replay

ENGLISH LEAGUE

First Division

Second Division

Third Division

Fourth Division

Non-League

Other

Cricket

Rugby

Tennis

Other

Other

Other

Other

Other

Other

Other

Other

Other

Other

Other

Other

Other

Other

Other

Other

Other

Other

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Branco gets a job at Boro

Neil Robinson

MIDDLESBROUGH yesterday became the first English club to have two Brazilians on their books when the Department for Education and Employment finally granted Branco a work permit.

Sport in brief

Snooker

Rugby Union

Basketball

Billiards

Cricket

Ice Hockey

Snooker

Other

Other

Other

Other

Other

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Other

Other

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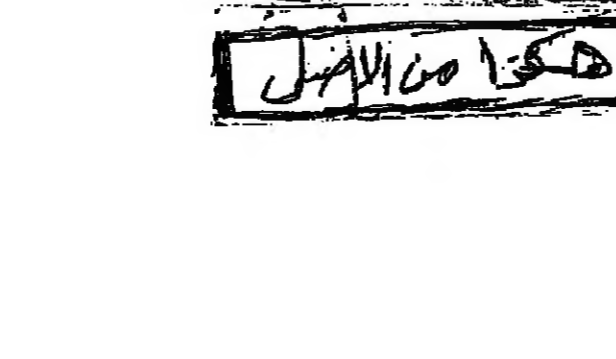
Other

Other

Fixtures
LTA MEN'S INDOOR TENNIS
SCOTTISH LEAGUE
Second Division
SEMI-PROFESSIONAL INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE
Basketball
Billiards
Cricket
Ice Hockey
Snooker
EUROPEAN OPEN

Results
Sunderland 2, Southend 0
Crystal Palace 3, Birmingham City 2
Port Vale 1, Leeds United 2

Sport in brief
Snooker
Rugby Union
Basketball
Billiards
Cricket
Ice Hockey
Snooker
Other



WORLD CUP CRICKET

Group A: India v Australia

Waugh silences India's big guns

Derek Grundy in Bombay

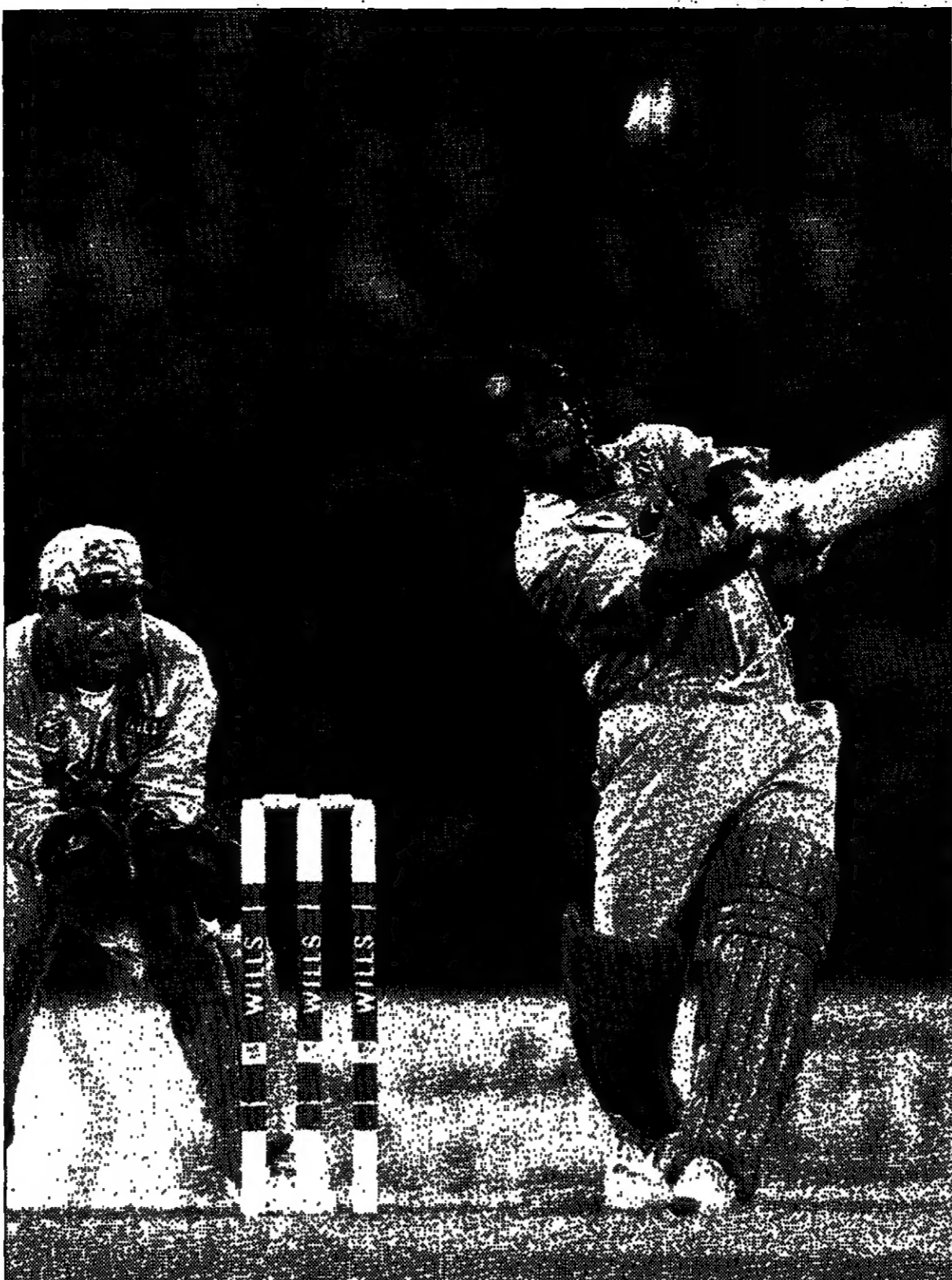
IT HAD been billed as Tendulkar v Waugh, but in the event the first genuine heavyweight contest of the World Cup turned out to be a gripping Tendulkar v Waugh, Mark, affair.

Table with 2 columns: Player Name, Score/Innings. Includes players like M A Taylor, Srinath, etc.

Table with 2 columns: Player Name, Score/Innings. Includes players like A D Jadeja, S Fleming, etc.

Match performance left India facing an awkward quarter-final against either South Africa or Pakistan. A game of dramatic fluctuations...

in a daring innings of 90, smacked off 94 balls with 14 fours and a six. Waugh was the only bowler to command any respect from Tendulkar: there was a suspicion that the prodigy did not always 'pick' Waugh, who took only one wicket but turned the ball prodigiously and applied the screws with 10 overs for only 28 runs.



Masterstroke... Tendulkar lets fly during his brilliant innings of 90 against Australia

Zimbabwe's Strang arm destroys African rivals

FIGHTING broke out in the crowd at the all-Africa match in Patna but then fell to 113 for five. New Zealand crushed the United Arab Emirates by 109 runs in the day's other game.

Players caught up in cola war

Mike Selvey reports on the commercial conflict fizzing over at the World Cup. THE two great cola companies of the world have been at loggerheads for decades.

Rugby Union

Jones the medic is a tonic for Wales

Livid Plummer on the rapid rise of the flanker with a big Saturday job in Dublin. SIX weeks ago Gwyn Jones was a name little known in rugby circles outside Wales.

his finals in the summer of 1997 when the Lions will be touring South Africa on their first professional tour. Jones is following his parents into medicine - Alan and Emyll Jones are both GPs in Swansea - but recognises that he will probably have to make a choice between his career of the field and rugby.

year out with injury, even though a club in east Wales would be more convenient. "I could never leave Llanelli," said Jones. "They have been tremendous to me and I want to repay the loyalty and faith they showed in me."

Rugby League

Rebels play hard to get

Paul Fitzpatrick

THE one thing that now seems certain in a complex situation is that the Australian Super League will not start on Friday as planned. A ban on the Super League, in the form of an interim injunction, was confirmed in Sydney yesterday by Justice James Buchanan.

Basketball

England deprived of their necessities in Moscow

ENGLAND are ready to retire from Moscow after learning that they must take on Russia in the European Championship tonight without their top player, Peter Scantlebury.

Squash

Parke back for British Open

SIMON PARKE, the No. 1 player in England's world title-winning team in November, has successfully finished a course of chemotherapy for testicular cancer, diagnosed two months ago.

Guscott gives Wigan games firm hand-off

BATH's England centre Jeremy Guscott will boycott two proposed games against the rugby league champions Wigan in May, writes David Irvine. Yesterday he dismissed the idea of the cross-code challenge as "a pointless exercise."



Jones... great anticipation

make his A-team debut. Jones is following his parents into medicine - Alan and Emyll Jones are both GPs in Swansea - but recognises that he will probably have to make a choice between his career of the field and rugby.

